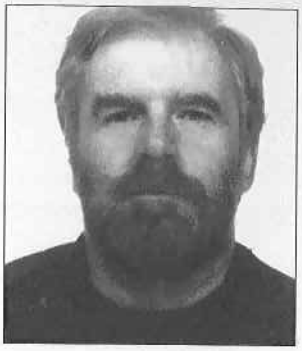
Elite

OSPREY PUBLISHING

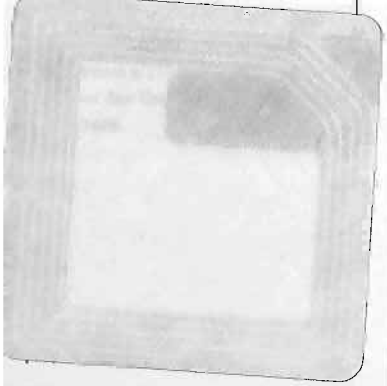
The Indian Army 1914–1947

Ian Sumner • Illustrated by Mike Chappell



IAN SUMNER was born in 1953 in Eccles, near Manchester. He originally trained as a librarian in Newcastle-upon-Tyne but is now a freelance author. His previous work for Osprey includes three Men-at-Arms titles on the French Army 1914–45; he has also written several books on the history of the East Riding of Yorkshire, where he now lives with his wife.

MIKE CHAPPELL spent 22 years in infantry soldiering, retiring in 1974 as RSM of the 1st Bn., The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers). Since beginning to paint military subjects in 1968 Mike has



CONTENTS

THE INDIAN ARMY IN 1914 – KITCHENER'S REFORMS 3

THE FIRST WORLD WAR 4

- Expeditionary Force A on the Western Front
- Expeditionary Force D in Mesopotamia
- Representative action: the battle of Megiddo, September 1918

BETWEEN THE WARS 13

- Recruitment
- Regimental re-organisation
- British officers
- Indian officers – VCOs, KCIOs, ICOs
- Indian Territorial Force
- The frontier column

THE SECOND WORLD WAR 23

- The Middle East
- The Far East
- Political opposition
- Representative action: the capture of Meiktila, 1945

PARTITION 30

THE REGIMENTS 32

- Cavalry
- Artillery
- Sappers and Miners
- Pioneers
- Infantry
- Supporting Services
- Followers
- The Armies of the Princes
- The Auxiliary Force (India)
- Frontier Corps

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 58

THE PLATES 59

- Commentaries by Mike Chappell

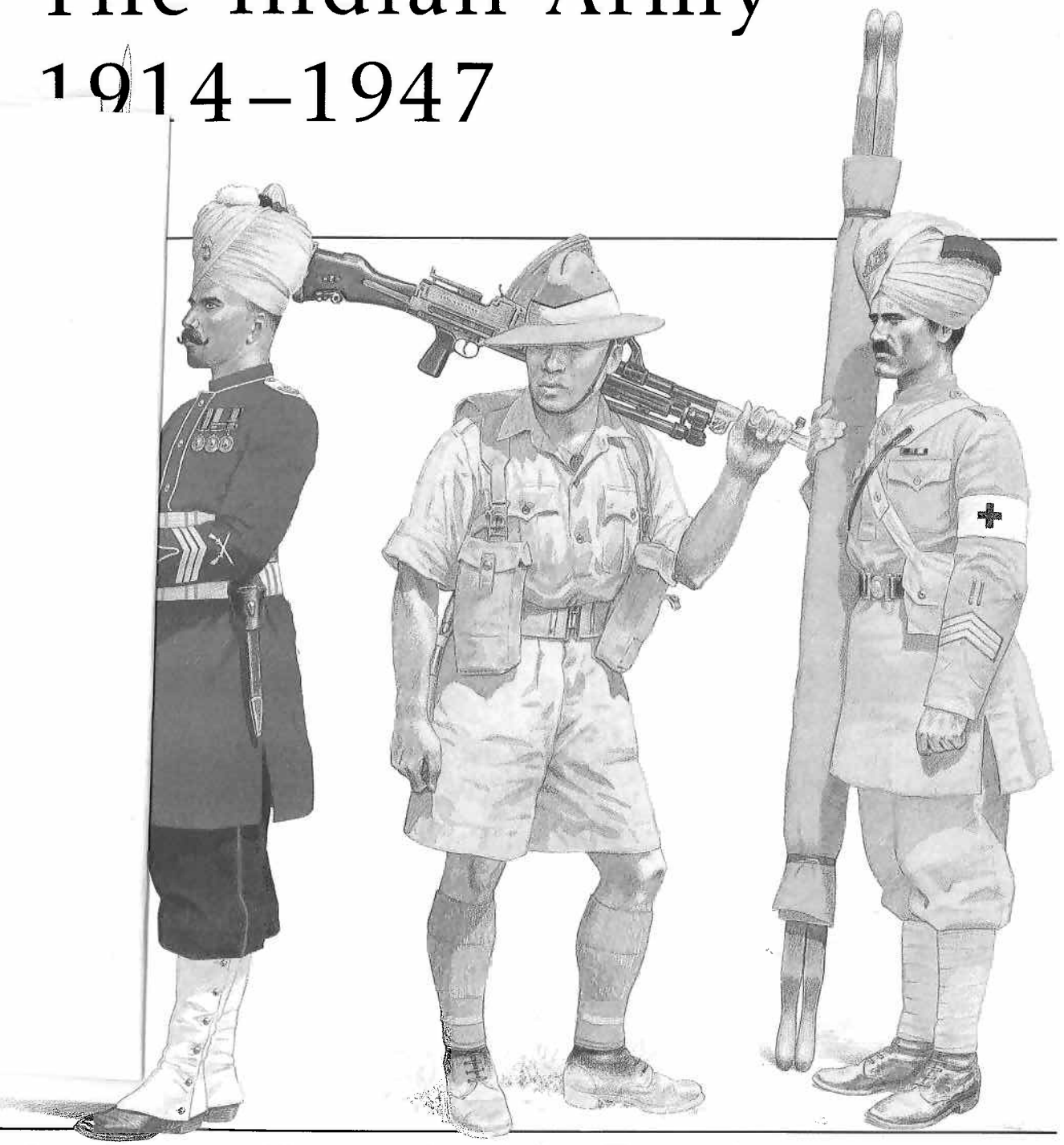
INDEX 64

Elite • 75

30119 022 543 344

OSPREY PUBLISHING

The Indian Army 1914–1947



Ian Sumner • Illustrated by Mike Chappell

Series editor Martin Windrow

First published in Great Britain in 2001 by Osprey Publishing,
Elms Court, Chapel Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LP, United Kingdom.
Email:**info@ospreypublishing.com**

© 2001 Osprey Publishing Ltd.

All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, optical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. Enquiries should be addressed to the Publishers.

ISBN 1 84176 196 6

Editor: Martin Windrow
Design: Ken Vail Graphic Design, Cambridge, UK
Index by Alan Rutter
Maps by Ian Sumner
Originated by Magnet Harlequin, Uxbridge, UK
Printed in China through World Print Ltd

01 02 03 04 05 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOR A CATALOGUE OF ALL BOOKS PUBLISHED BY OSPREY MILITARY AND AVIATION PLEASE CONTACT:
The Marketing Manager, Osprey Publishing Ltd, PO Box 140, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 4ZA, United Kingdom
Email: **info@ospreydirect.co.uk**

The Marketing Manager, Osprey Direct USA,
c/o Motorbooks International, PO Box 1
Osceola, WI 54020-0001, USA
Email: **info@ospreydirectusa.com**

www.ospreypublishing.com

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the writing of this book, particularly my wife Margaret, the staff of Hull Arts and Humanities Library and Dr Peter Davies of the Liddle Collection, Leeds University Library. I am grateful to the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum and to the Librarian, Special Collections at the University of Leeds for permission to reproduce photographs from their respective collections.

Artist's Note

Readers may care to note that the original paintings from which the colour plates in this book were prepared are available for private sale. All reproduction copyright whatsoever is retained by the Publishers. All enquiries should be addressed to:

Mike Chappell, 27 Nelson Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6DR

The Publishers regret that they can enter into no correspondence upon this matter.

THE INDIAN ARMY 1914–1947

THE INDIAN ARMY IN 1914

The Indian Army of 1914 was the largest volunteer army in the world at that time. It consisted of 107 single-battalion and 11 two-battalion regiments of infantry, 38 cavalry regiments, a joint infantry-cavalry unit, three regiments of sappers and miners and 12 batteries of mountain artillery. In addition to these units the armies of the Indian princes and regiments of European volunteers could, if necessary, be called on to reinforce the order of battle. This army can quite reasonably be said to be the creation of one man – Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum. He was appointed commander-in-chief in 1903 and over the next seven years instituted a wide range of reforms, which were fundamental in setting the army on the path towards becoming an efficient, well-prepared force.

Kitchener's first act was to renumber the army's regiments. For most of the 19th century there had been not one Indian Army but three, each recruited by the individual Presidencies – Bengal, Bombay and Madras – which administered the country. These three armies had eventually been unified in 1891, but each regiment continued to retain both its old pre-1891 number and the name of the Presidency which had originally raised it. Kitchener abolished these numbers and titles and renumbered all the regiments in a single sequence.

Kitchener then moved on to consider the case of the Indian Staff Corps. In the wake of the Mutiny many British officers were detached from their regiments to fill civilian posts. A ready source of men was required to fill the consequent gaps and the remedy was found in the creation of the Indian Staff Corps. Officers were no longer gazetted directly to a regiment; instead they joined the Staff Corps and were only attached to the regiments with which they served. By the final quarter of the century, however, the formation and growth of the Indian Civil Service had gradually permitted many officers to return to regimental duties. The Staff Corps was, therefore, no longer required; Kitchener abolished it and once again officers were fully part of the regiment in which they served.

More importantly, Kitchener abandoned the policy of distributing the army around the country, largely for internal security purposes, and of rarely moving regiments outside their own Presidency area. Regiments were instead made liable for service anywhere in India and all were required to complete a tour of duty on the North-West Frontier, on the grounds that the main danger to India lay in a Russian invasion via Afghanistan. Higher formations – brigades, divisions and armies – were established in peacetime, providing a command structure that was immediately available on the outbreak of war. Divisional commanders (there were nine divisions under Kitchener's scheme – see page 4) and army commanders (there were two – Northern and Southern) were all, in theory, freed from administrative work to allow them to concentrate

Wearing his full dress uniform, Subedar Mir Dast VC, 55th (Coke's) Rifles, Frontier Force, in 1916. Subedar Dast won the Victoria Cross at Weiltje near Ypres on 26 April 1915. Attached to the 57th Rifles, he rallied his men during a German gas attack after all the regiment's British officers had become casualties, and then carried eight British and Indian officers to safety whilst under fire. Dast also wears another decoration for bravery, the Indian Order of Merit 2nd Class (earned during the campaign against the Mohmands in 1907); the Delhi Durbar Medal; and the India General Service Medals of 1895 and 1908. Badly affected by gas, he returned to India in 1916, and was discharged to a pension the following year. (Liddle Collection)

Equivalent ranks in the British and Indian armies

	Cavalry	Other Arms
Captain/Senior Indian Officer	*Risaldar-Major*	*Subedar-Major*
Lieutenant	*Risaldar*	*Subedar*
2nd Lieutenant	*Jemadar*	*Jemadar*
Troop/Company Sergeant-Major	*Kot-Dafadar*	*Havildar-Major*
Sergeant	*Dafadar*	*Havildar*
Corporal	*Lance-Dafadar*	*Naik*
Lance-Corporal	*Acting Lance-Dafadar*	*Lance-Naik*
Private/Trooper	*Sowar*	*Sepoy*

Notes:

a) NCOs' ranks could be modified by particular appointments, e.g. *Quartermaster Dafadar*, *Colour Havildar*, etc.

b) the Ordnance Department included the ranks of *lascar* (equivalent to a sergeant-major) and *tindal* (in three grades, the equivalents of sergeant to lance-corporal).

c) a more general name applicable to any soldier was *jawan* (literally, young man, hero) or in the Gurkhas, *sathi*.

Formations created by Kitchener's reforms, 1904

Northern Army

1st (Peshawar) Div
2nd (Rawalpindi) Div
3rd (Lahore) Div
7th (Meerut) Div
8th (Lucknow) Div
Kohat Bde
Bannu Bde
Derajat Bde

Southern Army

4th (Quetta) Div
5th (Mhow) Div
6th (Poona) Div
9th (Secunderabad) Div
Burma Div
Aden Bde

on training; even divisional administration was to be handled by army headquarters. This reflected Kitchener's own particular prejudice against paperwork; but his successors (he left India in 1909) were not of the same calibre and were unable to manage the multifarious tasks and responsibilities of the post. The result was that, during the First World War, the office of the commander-in-chief (March 1914–October 1916, Gen. Sir Beauchamp Duff) ground to a virtual halt under an intolerable burden of petty administrative detail, to the detriment of the army in the field. A further shortcoming of the Kitchener reforms was also revealed in 1914. Divisional HQs had a number of responsibilities within their particular geographical area – for their own units, British volunteer units (the Auxiliary Force – see below) and internal security. Kitchener's reforms made no provision for a successor command to take over once the divisions had left for the front, which simply added to the administrative chaos.

With the creation of these higher formations there was a sudden need for trained staff officers. It had been difficult and expensive for Indian officers to return to the UK to attend the Staff College at Camberley; Kitchener therefore founded a new Staff College at Quetta. When the British authorities expressed their concern that these two separate colleges might well produce two separate schools of thought, Kitchener countered by stating that he would be happy to see evidence of any kind of serious military thought at all! In the event, the syllabus at Quetta was very similar to that at Camberley and personnel qualified at both establishments were in fact interchangeable.

Kitchener wrote on numerous occasions about the importance of putting aside memories of the Indian Mutiny. Nevertheless, one consequence of that traumatic event continued to withstand all his attempts at reform. Until the very end of the Second World War the government maintained at least one British battalion in every Indian infantry brigade.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

On the outbreak of war, the Indian Army consisted of a trained and experienced body of men, approximately 150,000 strong, and the Government of India immediately offered two infantry and two cavalry divisions for service anywhere. This force, designated Expeditionary Force A, was destined originally for Egypt to relieve British troops there, but at the last minute was diverted to France where the divisions were

thrown into the battle of La Bassée (October–November 1914). In the following March the Meerut Division formed the assault division at the battle of Neuve Chapelle. (Note that whilst Indian divisions and brigades were numbered, they were generally known by the name of their peacetime headquarters to prevent confusion with similarly numbered British formations.) Under the circumstances the troops showed considerable courage in what was to them a new style of warfare and one for which they had not been trained. All the Indian regiments suffered from the cold, from homesickness, from the loss of their British officers, and from having to use unfamiliar equipment (some regiments had only just received their Lee-Enfield rifles). They were also hampered by the failure of the reserve system, which meant that reinforcements drafted to replace casualties were drawn indiscriminately from any number of regiments.

Sikhs of the three Frontier Force regiments of Expeditionary Force A arrive in Marseilles in 1914. The men are wearing plain khaki drill, but the two officers at the head of the column are wearing tunics with the regiment's coloured facings.

The infantry divisions were withdrawn to Egypt in October 1915, but the cavalry stayed on in France until the spring of 1918, when they too sailed for Egypt to form part of the Desert Mounted Corps. Already in that theatre was Expeditionary Force E, which consisted originally of only the Lucknow Brigade, but eventually became responsible for all Indian forces in the Near East.

Indian forces were also committed to East Africa. One infantry brigade (the Bangalore Brigade belonging to the Secunderabad Division) was sent to Tanganyika, whilst the five battalions of Expeditionary Force B were given the task of defending the Uganda Railway. By far the largest Indian force to serve outside the sub-continent was Expeditionary Force D, which consisted originally of only the Poona Division and was sent to the mouth of the Euphrates in

Indian cavalry arrive in Marseilles in 1914.

Two men of the 34th Pioneers, armed with SMLE rifles, strike a martial pose for a French photographer. They are wearing bandolier equipment, which was standard for the Indian Army at this time.

November 1914 to guard British oil installations around Basra. Once the Imperial forces had established themselves there they were drawn further and further into the interior in the hope of gaining an easy victory over the Turks, and even of capturing Baghdad. The campaign, undertaken largely for reasons of prestige, quickly turned into a disaster.

Logistical constraints demanded that the axis of the advance was obliged to remain close to the River Tigris, and the campaign consisted of a series of head-on clashes with the Turks. The advancing troops, however, far outstripped the ability of the rear echelon to keep them supplied or to provide adequate medical arrangements. The Poona Division was trapped at Kut and forced to surrender in April 1916 despite the best efforts of two relieving divisions. An investigation into conditions at the front found an appalling state of affairs, with only rudimentary care for the wounded and poor supply arrangements for both food and clothing. The campaign against Baghdad was brought to a halt as the War Office took over the direction of the campaign from the Indian Army. The officer commanding the Expeditionary Force, General Sir John Nixon, was sacked and new, efficient administrative arrangements were made under a new GOC, Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Maude. In an even more far-reaching move, a new viceroy and a new commander-in-chief of the Indian Army (Gen. Sir Charles Monro) were also appointed.

With a change of commander the army, both in Mesopotamia and back home in India, was revitalised. Maude, having built up his forces to a position of overwhelming strength, set in train a series of limited

Indian Expeditionary Forces 1914–18

Force A:

The Indian Corps & Indian Cavalry Corps in France
Cavalry Corps: 1st Division, 2nd Division
Indian Corps: 3rd (Lahore) Division, 7th (Meerut) Division

Force B:

The 27th (Bangalore) Brigade and the Imperial Service Brigade in East Africa
Force B was broken up in December 1914 and its units used for the defence of East Africa.

Force C:

Battalions in Uganda
29th Punjabis, half battalions of Jind, Bharatpur, Kapurthala and Rampur Infantry Regiments (ISF), a volunteer 15-pdr. battery, a mountain 10-pdr. battery, a volunteer Maxim battery and a Field Ambulance. Force C was broken up on arrival at Mombasa and its units subsequently served separately.

Force D:

Forces in Mesopotamia
Cavalry Division (created from independent brigades December 1916), 6th (Poona) Division, 7th (Meerut) Division, 12th Division, 14th Division, 15th Division, 17th Division, 18th Division.

Force E:

Forces in Egypt
1st Mounted Division (later 4th Cavalry Division), 2nd Mounted Division (later 5th Cavalry Division), 11th Division.

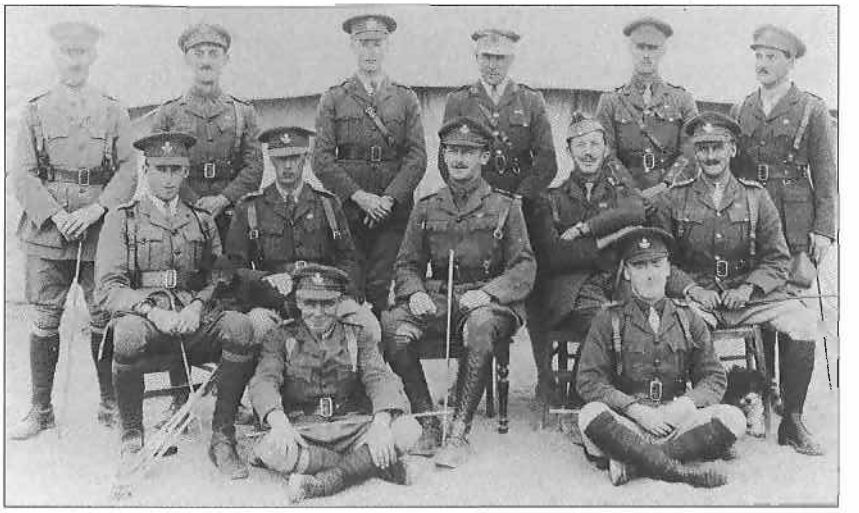
Force F:

28th, 29th and 30th Brigades in Egypt
i.e. 10th Division. The division was broken up in March 1915.

Force G:

29th Brigade in Gallipoli
The brigade served away from its parent division.

objective attacks and the advance along the Tigris was a complete success. Faced with the collapse of Russia the new priority in the theatre was no longer to capture Baghdad, but to carry the war into Turkey itself, to the oil wells in the south of the country and along the shores of the Caspian Sea. Baghdad fell on 17 March 1917, but the advance continued, reaching the city of Mosul just before the Armistice.



The British officers of the 58th (Vaughan's) Rifles, Frontier Force, at Kantara, Egypt, in December 1918. The 58th's officers follow regimental custom in wearing both brace straps of their Sam Browne belts; those who do not are attached officers from e.g. the Indian Hospital Corps. Note also the wide range of shades of khaki displayed in shirts, ties, tunics and trousers. (Liddle Collection)

The deployment of the Indian Army during the period of 1915–18 was rendered particularly difficult because the principal enemy, except in East Africa, was Turkey. Fighting fellow believers led by the Caliph, a man regarded as the successor to the Prophet, provoked a real crisis of conscience amongst Muslim soldiers and led to several small-scale mutinies, notably at Rangoon in December 1914 and at Singapore the following February. As a result, some units recruited from particularly strong Muslim areas, such as the 40th Pathans, had to be deliberately withdrawn from the Middle East. However, the majority of the troops, even those captured by the Turks (as at Kut for example) did not change sides.

Despite all these problems, just over one million Indian troops served outside their country, of whom 62,000 were killed and 67,000 wounded. In this, the first campaign in which they were eligible for the award, Indian soldiers won 11 VCs.

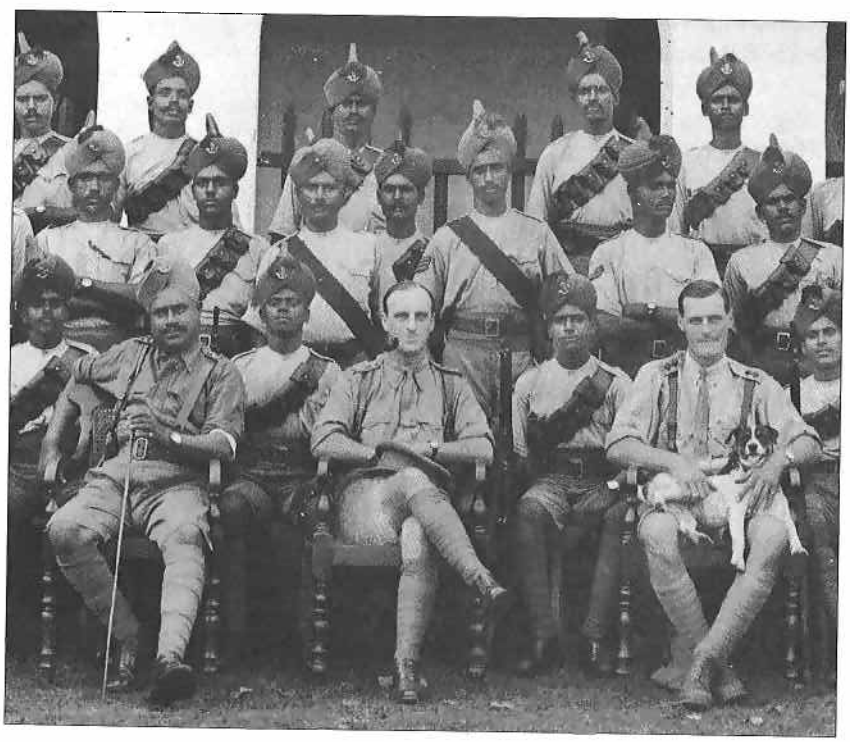
Representative action: The battle of Megiddo, September 1918

The British originally assembled a force in Egypt for the purely defensive purpose of guarding the Suez Canal against Turkish incursions. By late 1917, however, Turkish offensives appeared to be a thing of the past and, under pressure from London, plans were made for an Allied offensive in Palestine. A first attack directed at the town of Gaza was bloodily repulsed and the commander-in-chief, Lieutenant General Sir Archibald Murray, was replaced by General Sir Edmund Allenby.

Allenby resumed the offensive by mounting a feint at Gaza whilst breaking through the Turkish lines on the right, near Beersheba, and Jerusalem fell on 9 December. Bad weather and stiffening Turkish resistance (their lines had been reinforced by some German units) prevented any further gains for the time being. In addition, Allenby had been compelled to give up some of his most experienced troops to bolster a deteriorating situation on the Western Front. In return, however, he received the Indian cavalry regiments from France, and some raw Indian battalions straight from their depots. These new battalions replaced the British ones in three of the divisions of XXI Corps making it, to all intents and purposes, an Indian formation.

The need for training within these new Indian battalions was urgent. Many men had never handled a Lee-Enfield before; even worse, others – like 250 men of the 2/30th Punjabis – had arrived without ever having fired a musketry course. There was also a severe shortage of experienced British and Indian officers and Indian NCOs. Allenby was obliged to bring some units up to strength by transferring whole companies from more experienced battalions. Further, the battalions arrived in Palestine in ones and twos, with the result that the divisions could not be fully assembled until August 1918, so delaying the start of the proposed offensive.

Allenby's plans were the reverse of those of the previous year – this time a feint would be made on the right, along the valley of the River Jordan, and it was hoped that the intended breakthrough would come on the left. After a heavy surprise bombardment the offensive got under way at dawn on 18 September. The plan called for the four divisions of XXI Corps to break through and wheel to their right, allowing the cavalry of the Desert Mounted Corps to pass through the resulting gap and exploit northwards across the Turkish lines of communication. In the first phase (the battle of Sharon) some battalions incurred heavy losses (2/Guides Infantry of 60th Division, for example, lost 414 men), but the Turks were driven back all along the line and the pivoting movement was completed successfully. The Turkish defence had been suppressed by the initial bombardment and, once an initial breakthrough had been made, the defenders were always inclined to withdraw to avoid encirclement rather than fight it out. Since the ground lacked the network of trenches, barbed wire entanglements and concrete emplacements of the Western Front, senior commanders were more easily able to approach the front line and make a personal assessment of the situation. This cut down on the response time for new orders and ensured that mistakes in deployment, for example, could quickly be rectified on the spot. Casualties suffered were significantly fewer than for a comparable battle on the Western Front: the Turks were unable to utilise counter-battery fire, whilst the constant drain of men through trench raids and counter-raids was not a feature of this front.



Recruits at the 83rd Light Infantry's depot at Cannanore, June 1918, with NCOs and Indian and British officers. Although the photo was taken in the last months of the war the men are not yet armed with SMLEs. (Liddle Collection)

The way was now clear for the cavalry. Fortunately, Major-General Barrow (4th Cavalry Division) had insisted that his men be assembled close to the front line to ensure that

Service of Indian formations 1914–19

1st (Peshawar) Division: formed pre-war; NW Frontier, Afghanistan 1919
2nd (Rawalpindi) Division: formed pre-war; NW Frontier, Afghanistan 1919
3rd (Lahore) Division: formed pre-war; France, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Palestine Occupation Force; broken up by 1923
4th (Quetta) Division: formed pre-war; India, NW Frontier, Afghanistan 1919
5th (Mhow) Division: formed pre-war; internal security and training in India
6th (Poona) Division: formed pre-war; Mesopotamia, captured at Kut-el-Amara April 1916
7th (Meerut) Division: formed pre-war; France, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Palestine Occupation Force; broken up 1920
8th (Lucknow) Division: formed pre-war; internal security in India
9th (Secunderabad) Division: formed pre-war; internal security in India, one brigade to East Africa, cavalry brigade to France
10th Division: formed 1914 in Egypt; Egypt; broken up 1916
11th Division: formed 1914 in Egypt; Egypt; broken up 1915
12th Division: formed 1915 in Mesopotamia; Mesopotamia; disbanded 1916
14th Division: formed 1916 in Mesopotamia; Mesopotamia; broken up 1916
15th Division: formed 1916 in Mesopotamia; Mesopotamia; disbanded 1919
16th Division: formed 1916; N.W. Frontier, Afghanistan 1919
17th Division: formed 1917 in Mesopotamia; Mesopotamia, Iraq Occupation Force; broken up by 1928
18th Division: formed 1917–18 in Mesopotamia; Mesopotamia, Iraq Occupation Force; broken up 1920
Burma Division: formed pre-war; internal security in Burma
1st Indian Cavalry Division: formed 1914 in India; France, renumbered as 4th Cavalry, December 1916; Indian elements replaced March 1918 and sent to Egypt
2nd Indian Cavalry Division: formed 1914 in India; France, renumbered as 5th Cavalry, December 1916; Indian elements replaced March 1918 and sent to Egypt
1st Mounted Division: formed Egypt 1918 from Yeomanry Mounted Division incorporating Indian elements from 4th Cavalry Division in France, but then renumbered as 4th; Palestine, Palestine Occupation Force; broken up 1921
2nd Mounted Division: formed Egypt 1918 from Indian elements of 5th Cavalry Division in France, but then renumbered as 5th; Palestine, Palestine Occcupation Force; broken up 1920.
Cavalry Division: formed 1916 in Mesopotamia; Mesopotamia; broken up 1918, its brigades then serving independently
Aden Brigade: formed pre-war; Aden
Bannu Brigade: formed pre-war; N.W. Frontier
Derajat Brigade: formed pre-war; N.W. Frontier
Kohat Brigade: formed pre-war; N.W. Frontier
South Persia Brigade: formed 1915; South Persia and Gulf; broken up by 1921

there would be no repeat of the mistake of Cambrai, where the cavalry had found itself too far in the rear to allow it to exploit the infantry's initial breakthrough. At 9am on 19 September the cavalry, supported by armoured cars, advanced through the gap that the infantry had created, moving along the narrow coastal plain and hustling Turkish rearguards out of the way with a mixture of boldness and sheer courage. The 4th Cavalry Division covered 70 miles in 34 hours, with the loss of only 26 horses. The 5th Cavalry Division moved even faster, but as a consequence lost many horses to exhaustion. Their objectives were further north still and, on 23 September, a detachment succeeded in capturing the important seaport of Haifa, thanks to an attack by two squadrons of the Jodhpur Lancers, whose bold charge swept away several machine gun emplacements. They were supported by the Mysore Lancers (see Plate D); a small detachment of some 15 troopers charged and completely routed an artillery battery on the heights above the town. Allenby had gambled that the Turks would be unable to move

A column of Indian troops, perhaps from one of the Baluchi regiments, crosses a pontoon bridge in Mesopotamia. Most of the men are not equipped with packs; instead they carry all their belongings in a drawstring bag. (Liddle Collection)

Order of battle, forces engaged in the Battle of Megiddo, 19–25 September 1918

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS (Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Chauvel)

4th Cavalry Division (Maj. Gen. Sir George Barrow)
- **10th Cavalry Brigade:** 1/1st QO Dorset Yeomanry, 2nd Lancers, 38th Central India Horse, 17th Machine Gun Squadron
- **11th Cavalry Brigade:** 1/1st County of London Yeomanry, 29th Lancers, 36th Jacob's Horse, 21st Machine Gun Squadron
- **12th Cavalry Brigade:** 1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry, 6th Cavalry, 19th Lancers, 18th Machine Gun Squadron
- **Divisional troops:** 20th Brigade Royal Horse Artillery (TF), 4th Field Squadron RE

5th Cavalry Division (Maj. Gen. H.J Macandrew)
- **13th Cavalry Brigade:** 1/1st Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, 9th Hodson's Horse, 18th Lancers, 19th Machine Gun Squadron
- **14th Cavalry Brigade:** 1/1st Sherwood Rangers, 20th Deccan Horse, 34th Poona Horse, 20th Machine Gun Squadron
- **15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade:** Mysore Lancers, 1st Hyderabad Lancers, 1st Jodhpur Lancers, 15th IS Bde. Machine Gun Squadron
- **Divisional troops:** Essex and Notts Batteries Royal Horse Artillery (TF), 5th Field Squadron RE
- **Also under command:** Australian Mounted Division, 11th and 12th Light Armoured Motor Batteries, 1st and 7th Light Car Patrols

XX CORPS (Lt. Gen. Sir Philip Chetwode)

Corps troops: 1/1st Worcester Yeomanry, XCVII and 103rd Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery, 39th Indian Mountain Battery, Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery

10th Division (Maj. Gen. J.R. Longley)
- **29th Brigade:** 1st Leinsters, 1/54th Sikhs (FF), 1/101st Grenadiers, 2/151st Indian Infantry, 29th Trench Mortar Battery
- **30th Brigade:** 1st Royal Irish, 38th Dogras, 46th Punjabis, 1st Kashmir IS Infantry, 30th Trench Mortar Battery
- **31st Brigade:** 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2/42nd Deoli, 74th Punjabis, 2/101st Grenadiers, 31st Trench Mortar Battery
- **Divisional troops:** LXVII, LXVIII, 263rd Brigade Royal Field Artillery, 66th and 85th Field Companies RE, 18th Field Co. 3rd Sappers and Miners, 2/155th Pioneers, 10th Battalion Machine Gun Corps

53rd Division (Maj. Gen. S.F Mott)
- **158th Brigade:** 5th/6th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 3/153rd Indian Infantry, 3/154th Indian Infantry, 4/11th Gurkha Rifles, 158th Trench Mortar Battery
- **159th Brigade:** 4th/5th Welsh, 3/152nd Indian Infantry, 1/153rd Indian Infantry, 2/153rd Indian Infantry, 159th Trench Mortar Battery
- **160th Brigade:** 1/7th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1/17th Infantry, 1/21st Punjabis, 1st Cape Corps [South African], 160th Trench Mortar Battery
- **Divisional troops:** 265th, 266th and 267th Brigades Royal Field Artillery, 436th and 437th Field Cos. RE, 72nd Field Co. 3rd Sappers and Miners, 1/155th Pioneers, 53rd Battalion Machine Gun Corps

XXI CORPS (Lt. Gen. Sir Edward Bulfin)

Corps troops: Composite cavalry regiment (one sqn. Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, two sqns. 1/1st Herts. Yeomanry), XCV, XCVI, 100th and 102nd Brigades Royal Garrison Artillery, VIII and IX Mountain Brigades Royal Garrison Artillery

3rd (Lahore) Division (Maj. Gen. A.R. Hoskins)
- **7th (Ferozepore) Brigade:** 1st Connaught Rangers, 27th Punjabis, 91st Punjabis, 2/7th Gurkha Rifles, 7th Lt. Trench Mortar Battery
- **8th (Jullundur) Brigade:** 1st Manchesters, 47th Sikhs, 59th Rifles, 2/124th Baluchis, 8th Light Trench Mortar Battery
- **9th (Sirhind) Brigade:** 2nd Dorsets, 93rd Infantry, 105th Mahrattas, 1/1st Gurkha Rifles, 9th Light Trench Mortar Battery
- **Divisional troops:** IV, VIII and LIII Brigades Royal Field Artillery, 18th, 20th and 21st Field Cos. 3rd Sappers & Miners, 34th Sikh Pioneers, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion

7th (Meerut) Division (Maj. Gen. V.B. Fane)
- **9th (Dehra Dun) Brigade:** 1st Seaforths, 28th Punjabis, 92nd Punjabis, 125th Rifles, 19th Light Trench Mortar Battery
- **21st (Bareilly) Brigade:** 2nd Black Watch, 20th Punjabis, 1/Guides, 1/8th Gurkha Rifles, 21st Light Trench Mortar Battery
- **28th Indian Brigade:** 2nd Leicesters, 51st Sikhs (FF), 53rd Sikhs (FF), 56th Punjabis (FF), 28th Light Trench Mortar Battery
- **Divisional troops:** 261st, 262nd and 264th Brigades Royal Field Artillery, 522nd Field Co. RE, 3rd and 4th Field Cos. 1st QVO Sappers and Miners, 121st Pioneers, 7th Machine Gun Battalion

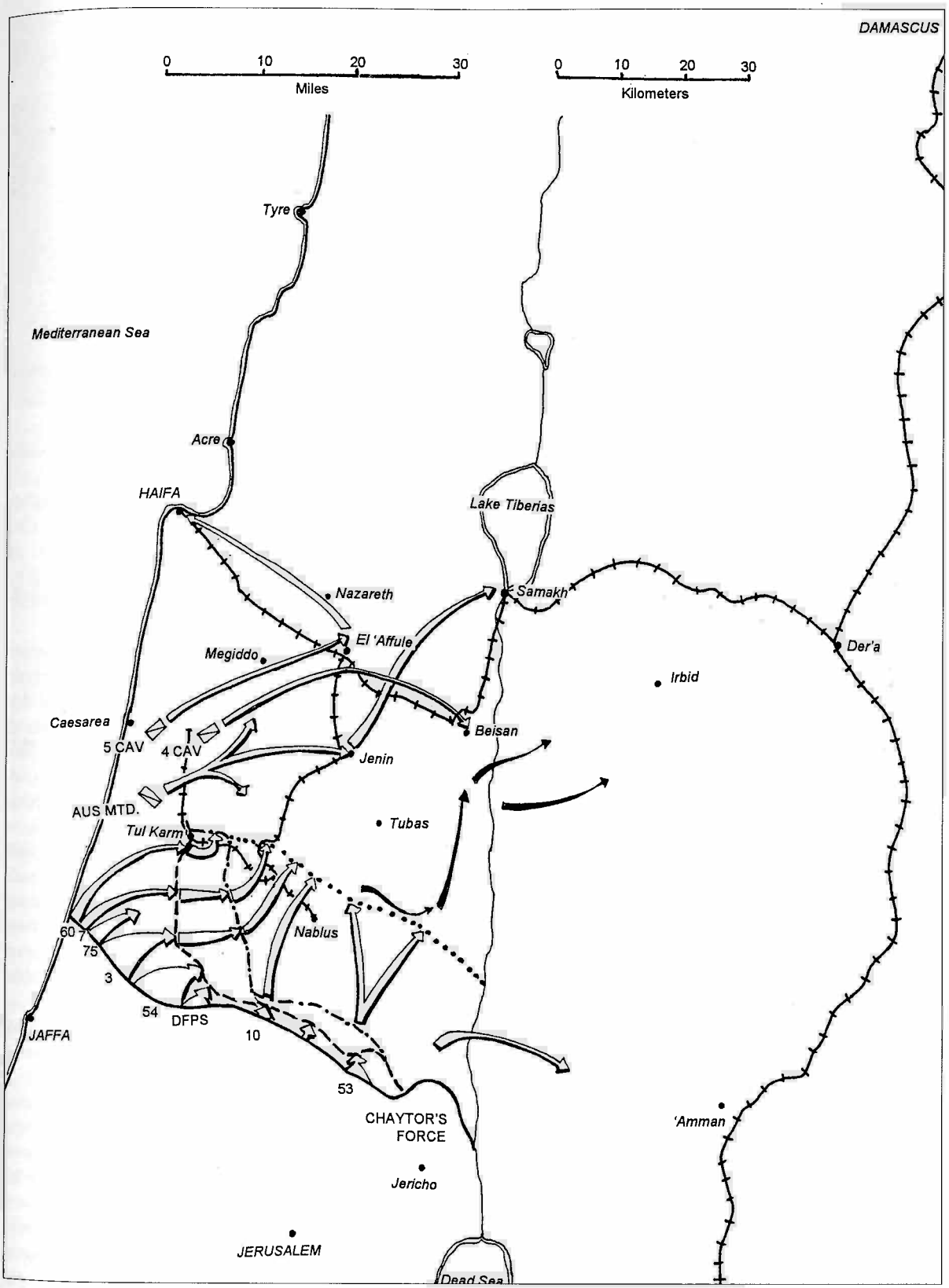
60th Division (Maj. Gen. S.M. Shea)
- **179th Brigade:** 2/13th London, 2/19th Punjabis, 2/127th Baluch LI, 3/151st Punjabi Rifles, 179th Trench Mortar Battery
- **180th Brigade:** 2/19th London, 2/30th Punjabis, 1/50th Kumaon Rifles, 2/Guides Infantry, 180th Trench Mortar Battery
- **181st Brigade:** 2/22nd London, 2/97th Deccan Infantry, 130th Baluchis, 2/152nd Indian Infantry, 181st Trench Mortar Battery
- **Divisional troops:** 301st, 302nd and 303rd Brigades Royal Field Artillery, 519th and 521st Field Cos RE, 1st Co. 1st QVO Sappers and Miners, 2/107th Pioneers, 60th Battalion Machine Gun Corps

75th Division (Maj. Gen. P.C. Palin)
- **232nd Brigade:** 1/4th Wiltshires, 72nd Punjabis, 2/3rd Gurkha Rifles, 3rd Kashmir I.S. Infantry, 232nd Trench Mortar Battery
- **233rd Brigade:** 1/5th Somerset LI, 29th Punjabis, 2/154th Indian Infantry, 3/3rd Gurkha Rifles, 233rd Trench Mortar Battery
- **234th Brigade:** 1/4th Duke of Cornwall's LI, 58th Vaughan's Rifles (FF), 123rd Outram's Rifles, 1/152nd Indian Infantry, 234th Trench Mortar Battery
- **Divisional troops:** XXXVII and 172nd Brigades Royal Field Artillery, 1st South African Field Artillery Brigade, 486th Field Co. RE, 10th and 16th Cos. 2nd QO Sappers and Miners, 2/32nd Sikh Pioneers, 60th Battalion Machine Gun Corps

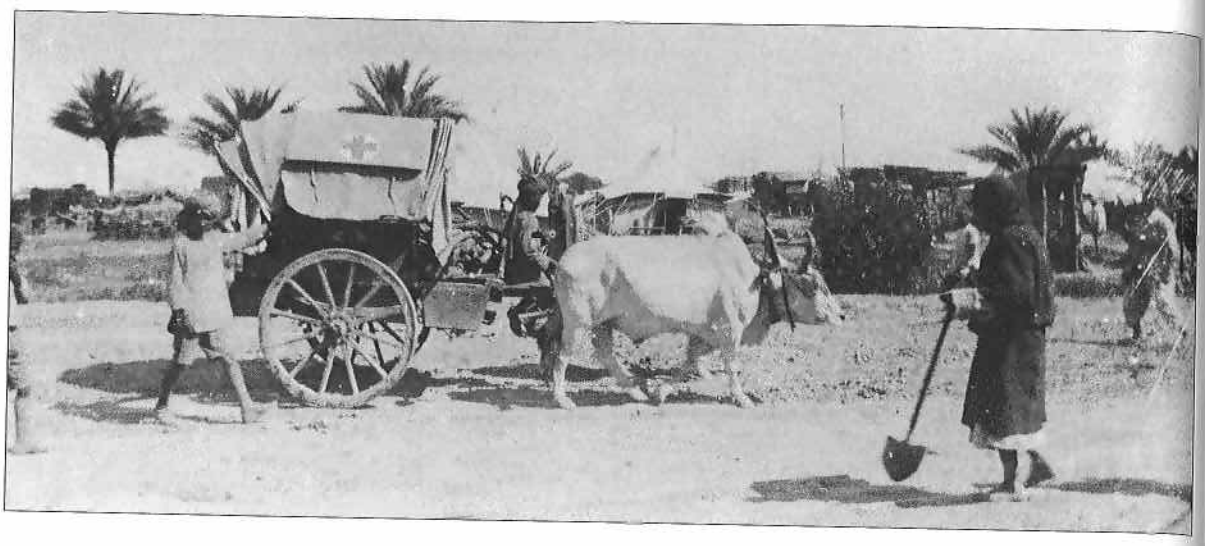
Attached: Détachement Français de Palestine et Syrie
Also under command: 54th (East Anglian) Division

CHAYTOR'S FORCE (Maj. Gen. Sir Edward Chaytor)

Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division
20th Indian Brigade (Brig. Gen. E.R.B Murray): 110th Mahratta LI, Alwar IS Infantry, Gwalior IS Infantry, Gwalior IS Infantry
Unbrigaded: 38th and 39th Royal Fusiliers, 1st and 2nd British West Indies Regt.
Artillery: 75th Battery Royal Field Artillery, 29th and 32nd Indian Mountain Batteries, 195th Heavy Battery Royal Garrison Artillery



The campaign of Megiddo, from information in the *Official History*.



During the Mesopotamian campaign the wounded had to be evacuated by bullock cart, since no motor ambulances were available. The long, slow, dusty and uncomfortable ride did nothing to aid the healing process. (Liddle Collection)

sufficient reinforcements across sufficiently quickly to meet the cavalry thrust, and he was proved correct.

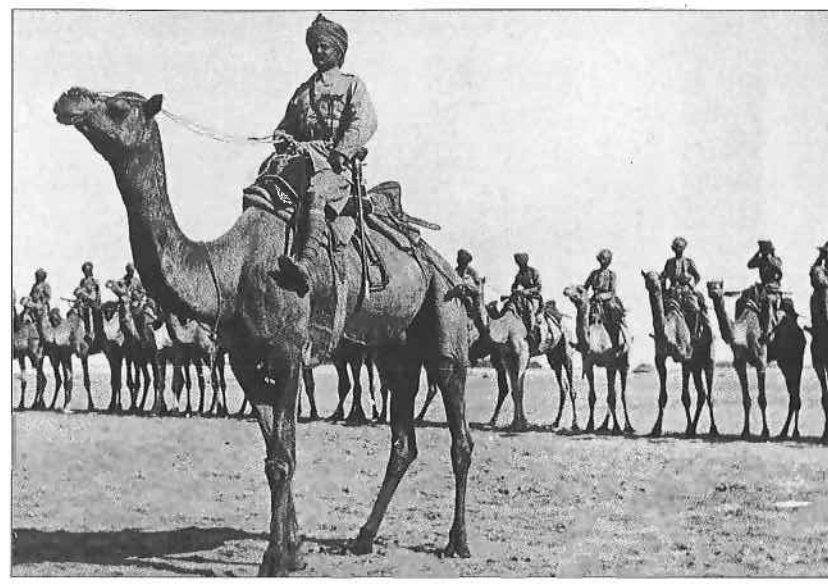
Meanwhile, the infantry of XXI Corps carried on wheeling right, advancing into the craggy, arid Judean Hills (the battle of Nablus). The Turks continued to withdraw before the unremitting pressure of Allenby's forces – their commanders were determined not to be caught, and kept their eyes firmly fixed on the small number of defiles on the eastern edge of the hills, which offered their only means of escape.

By the 21st, they were caught, abandoning a good deal of transport and ammunition in the process. Even those elements of the Turkish forces which passed successfully through the defiles into the valley of the River Jordan were unable to get away since their retreat northwards had been blocked at Beisan by the 4th Cavalry Division. Pressured from the rear by Allied infantry and from above by the RAF, the Turkish 8th Army completely disintegrated and the survivors were taken into captivity, along with some Turkish elements of the Turko-German Asia Corps.

The way was now clear for Allenby to exploit the situation still further, and he therefore sent the infantry of XXI Corps along the coast to capture Beirut whilst the Desert Mounted Corps made for Damascus, which fell on 1 October. Between 19 September and 31 October Allenby's forces sustained a total of 5,666 casualties, of whom 853 were killed; the cavalry's total losses amounted to 650. There are no reliable figures for Turkish casualties. Around 12,000 men were captured along with 149 guns, a vast quantity of ammunition of all kinds and innumerable transport wagons. In total, nine infantry and one cavalry division were either destroyed or disbanded.

Partly as a result of poor food and rampant disease the morale of the Turkish troops who faced Allenby was, to say the least, uncertain. They thus crumbled rather more easily in the face of this offensive than was the case in previous actions. Nevertheless, much of the success at Megiddo must be attributed to the men of Allenby's army. They showed flexibility and rapidity in their initial attacks and in their ability to keep the retreating Turks on the move, preventing them from making a firm stand. When, in the later stages of the campaign – at Irbid on 26 September and at Aleppo one month later – the Turks finally

mounted an organised defence, they successfully repulsed Allied attacks. The Royal Air Force also made a significant contribution, destroying the equipment of the retreating troops. The decision to permit the cavalry to venture so deeply into a country where fresh water and food were not plentiful was a bold one and entirely Allenby's own. In view of the amount of marching undertaken by some of these raw battalions, particularly those of 60th Division on the left flank of the 'wheel', and that the fact this was for many their first taste of action, the achievement of the infantry remains notable.

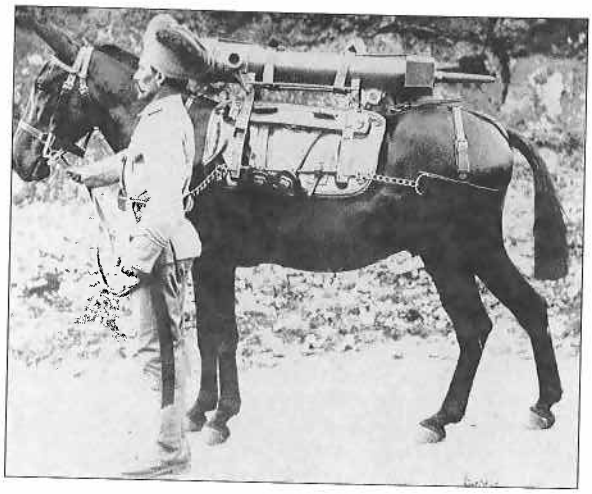


An officer of the Bikanir Ganga Rissala, the Camel Corps, in Mesopotamia. The regiment was first raised in 1888; whilst it served abroad during the First World War, it was employed on internal security duties during the Second World War. (IWM Q15849)

BETWEEN THE WARS

Operations conducted during the First World War had revealed a number of flaws in the Indian Army – some stemming from Kitchener's reforms, others from the nature of the war itself. In the early 1920s, therefore, the high command structure was altered to provide the army with a geographical as well as an operational framework. Troops were allotted to one of three roles – the field army, covering troops, or internal security. The field army was made up of four infantry divisions and five cavalry brigades. The covering troops, whose role was to suppress minor disturbances on the frontier and to act as a screening force in case of invasion, consisted of 12 infantry brigades plus supporting arms. The internal security troops (43 battalions) were allotted the role of assisting the civil power and could be backed up if necessary by field army units. As many as one third of all troops in India were occupied in this last duty by the outbreak of the Second World War.

Over-recruiting in some areas during the war had also created problems. Generally speaking, the army preferred the Indians from the north of the country to those from the south. These were men from the so-called 'martial races' – those which were considered the most 'warlike' by the British. Of these, Sikhs, Punjabi Muslims (or Punjabi Mussulmans, as they were known at the time), Gurkhas, Garhwalis, Dogras, Rajputs, Baluchis, Mers and Pathans were the most numerous. Men of the same race served together, either within a single race company/squadron in a mixed race regiment, or in a 'single-class', single race regiment. In 1914 there were 54 single class regiments, of all branches, and 123 regiments with class companies/squadrons. Indeed, family ties and traditions of service meant that the men of a particular sub-unit could be drawn from a very small geographical area indeed.



The barrel section of a mountain artillery gun on its mule. A second mule carried the trail, whilst others carried the wheels and the ammunition.

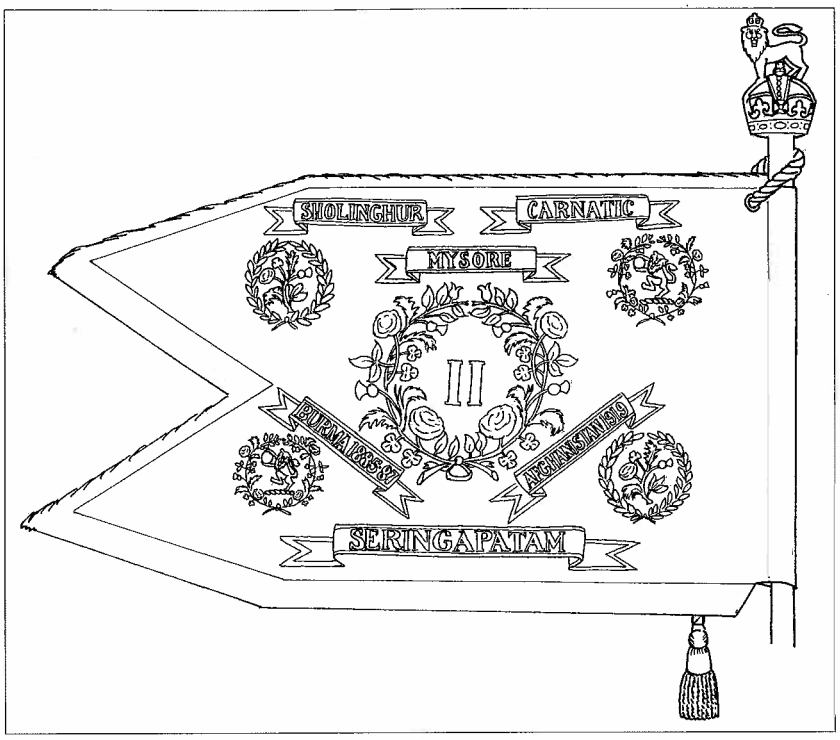
This arrangement eased problems of language, customs and caste, and at the same time encouraged inter-unit rivalry and competition to the advantage of the regiment's performance in the field. However, it also led to a lack of co-ordination in recruitment. Every cavalry regiment and infantry depot, every corps and department recruited its own men, ensuring that each was competing for its recruits from an ever-shrinking pool of candidates. The particular make-up of each regiment added further complications. One regiment might require only a certain number of Rajputs, another so many Dogras for their own class companies, as well as demanding British officers who could speak the language of their men. As the war progressed it became more and more difficult to match recruits to the vacancies in existing regiments, let alone those in all the new battalions that had been formed (by November 1918 the strength of the army had risen by approximately 420,000 to 573,484 men).

One solution, the creation of a pool of reinforcements, proved a failure since Indian soldiers had a very real objection to serving with strangers, even more than their British counterparts in the same situation. Indian soldiers fought for *izzat* – for the honour and standing of themselves, their family, their caste and their regiment, and there was little *izzat* to be gained in fighting away from one's regiment, amongst strangers. Perhaps the better answer was to widen the number of 'races' from which recruits were drawn, and the tentative steps taken in this direction proved successful in raising the number of men required during the war. Yet, even then, recruitment remained centred in the north of the sub-continent; some 49 per cent of the army was drawn from the Punjab (Punjabi Muslims and Sikhs) and 26 per cent from the United Provinces, and post-war reductions in strength once again saw a return to a more restricted recruiting base.

With the experience of trench warfare in mind a reduction in the number of cavalry regiments was required. Accordingly, these were amalgamated in pairs, after the pattern of the British Army, reducing the number of regiments by 18 and the number of men to a mere 56 per cent of the pre-war establishment. Only three regiments remained unaffected: the 27th and 28th Light Cavalry and the Guides Cavalry. The last of the amalgamations did not take place until the final regiment returned home to India in 1923.

In response to the problems of recruiting and training reinforcements all the infantry and cavalry regiments were then 'grouped'. The 21 cavalry regiments remaining after amalgamation were brought into seven groups, each three regiments strong, one of which would man a common depot; the make-up of each regiment was adjusted so that all the regiments in one group had a similar class composition. In the infantry there were to be 20 such groups (the Gurkha regiments were excluded). However, once these infantry groups had been organised, it was only a small step to convert the regiments of each group into the battalions of one large regiment, and this was

effected in 1922. Each of the new large regiments consisted of four or five active battalions plus one more, always numbered the 10th Battalion, which served as a training unit for the regiment. This still left nine single-battalion regiments in existence, and these were all disbanded between 1921 and 1922. One of the nine was the 17th Infantry (The Loyal Regiment) – a somewhat harsh repayment for their fidelity. In addition, two of the new large regiments later disappeared from the Army List: the 3rd Madras Regiment was disbanded in 1928 for reasons of economy; and the 20th Burma Rifles left the army when, in 1937, Burma ceased to be governed as part of India. The regiment joined the Burmese establishment as the Burma Rifles.



Although cavalry standards were abolished in the Indian Army in 1864, some exceptions were made, principally for regiments that had been awarded extra standards as an honorary distinction. The 16th Light Cavalry, whose standard appears here, was not among these, but was allowed to retain two guidons which had been presented to the regiment by the Prince of Wales in 1922. The guidons, in buff silk with silver fringes, followed the 1840 Madras Regulations, and were identical to a pair borne by the 16th's predecessor, the 2nd Madras Light Cavalry. The regiment bore the honour SHOLINGHUR even though it had not been part of the Company's Army at that battle, but was serving at the time with the Nawab of Arcot.

In spite of all these amalgamations, traditions within the new large regiments died hard, and until Partition many cavalry regiments and infantry battalions continued to refer to themselves by their pre-1922 number. Some managed to retain their old regimental title, at least in part, and some their old regimental badge as a special-to-battalion distinction. Thus, the 2nd Queen's Own Rajput Light Infantry became the 1st Battalion (Queen Victoria's Own Light Infantry), 7th Rajput Regiment, and wore the Queen's cipher on the lapel of their mess dress jackets and on their full dress headgear instead of the regiment's own badge. This policy led to the unusual situation of having 'Royal' battalions in non-Royal regiments, such as, for example, the 5th Royal Battalion of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry (which took its title from the pre-1922 117th Royal Mahrattas). Such spirit was also evident in the attitude taken towards other regiments (which, of course, were always slightly inferior to one's own). The officers of the 4th Bombay Grenadiers habitually referred to the British Grenadier Guards as 'our London branch'. The 16th Cavalry (the former 27th Cavalry of 1903 and the 2nd Madras Lancers before that) considered themselves to be the army's senior cavalry regiment, having been raised in c.1774, some 50 years before the regiment accorded seniority in the Army List, Skinner's Horse (1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry).

The British officer who volunteered for the Indian Army had generally graduated towards the top of his class at Sandhurst – such was the competition for places that the Indian Army could choose the best. He was first sent to spend a year with a British regiment serving in India on the Unattached List Indian Army. This gave him an introduction to

Mountain artillery on exercise near Gardai on the North-West Frontier. In the background, the battery's British and Indian officers are calculating the ranges and observing the fall of shot.

the country and an opportunity to begin learning Urdu. Command of that language, the army's *lingua franca*, was considered essential and the officer would be required to pass the Lower Standard Urdu exam; most would also ensure that they later learned the particular language spoken by their own men, such as Pushtu. During this period, the officer would select which Indian regiment he wished to join and could spend a short time with it, giving that regiment's existing officers an opportunity to assess his suitability. Great store was set by this, since a regiment's British officers formed their own small community and it was vital that a new 'member' fitted in quickly. Anyone who did not get on with his colleagues, or who showed no signs of conforming, was permitted to transfer to another corps at any time in his career.

Whilst serving with his British regiment, the new officer would typically be appointed a platoon or troop officer, but this was a level of command lower than he would experience in his Indian regiment. As there were only two British officers in each company, the new officer might find himself in command of a company within weeks of his arrival, a degree of responsibility which an officer in the British Army would take a number of years to attain. By insisting on this introductory year with a British regiment it was hoped that the new officers could make their mistakes before they were posted to their permanent regiment and not in front of native troops.

Life for the British officer in India offered a wide range of intellectual, social and sporting activities. For some, like Francis Yeats-Brown, the 17th Cavalry author of *A Bengal Lancer*, it was a step on the road to spiritual fulfilment. Many more enjoyed the wide range of sporting activities from hunting (the Peshawar Vale Hunt imported fox hounds from England, though the quarry was jackal), big-game hunting and pig-sticking, to team sports such as polo, hockey and cricket. Polo became a popular sport amongst infantry and cavalry alike, although it was alleged (by infantrymen) that some cavalry regiments thought more of the next polo tournament than they did of their regiment's battle honours. Officers were permitted 60 days leave a year (90 for officers serving in frontier stations) and so had ample opportunity for rest and relaxation. During the hot weather season, soldiers and civilians alike retreated to one of a number of towns in the hills – Simla, Ootacamund

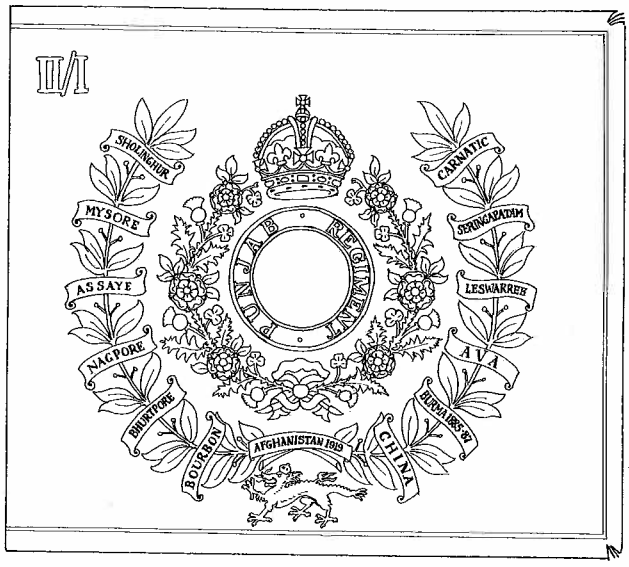
(known to everyone as 'Ooty') or Poona – which enjoyed a cooler, more congenial climate.

One important measure was the introduction in 1923 of a policy of 'Indianisation', or the progressive increase in the number of Indian officers within the army. Potential officers were selected to attend Sandhurst and then, on commissioning, would be posted to one of eight designated regiments in India (namely, 7th Light Cavalry, 16th Light Cavalry, 2/1st Punjabis, 5/5th Mahratta Light Infantry, 1/7th Rajputs, 1/14th Punjabis, 4/19th Hyderabad and 2/1st Madras Pioneers). The first Indian graduate was Syed Iskander Mirza, who went on to become President of Pakistan in 1955. Progress was, however, slow – the cost of sending an Indian cadet to England and the culture clash which often occurred on his arrival resulted in low take-up and success rates. Therefore, an Indian 'Sandhurst', the Indian Military College, was set up at Dehra Dun in 1932. A further eight units were 'Indianised' in the following year – 3rd Cavalry, 5/2nd Punjabis, 5/6th Rajput Rifles, 5/8th Punjabis, 5/10th Baluch, 5/11th Sikhs, 4/12th Frontier Force Regiment, 6/13th Frontier Force Rifles, plus three field companies of the Indian Engineers.

These changes resulted in a proliferation of officer types. Prior to Indianisation, Indian officers had all been commissioned from the ranks by the Viceroy of India – before 1935 they were known as Indian Officers and after that date as Viceroy Commissioned Officers (VCOs). Those commissioned at Sandhurst held the King's Commission in His Majesty's Land Forces (KCIOs), like all British officers, but those commissioned at Dehra Dun held commissions only in HM Indian Land Forces as Indian Commissioned Officers (ICOs). Although ICOs were paid on the same scale as British officers in the United Kingdom, British officers serving in India were still the better paid because they received an extra overseas allowance. It was hoped that the rank of VCO would eventually be phased out and its holders replaced as troop or platoon officers by the newly created ICOs. However, since VCOs were appointed from the ranks, the removal of the prospect of advancement provoked hostility amongst senior Indian NCOs. Although the rank was abolished in some regiments, the experience of the VCOs remained invaluable to junior (British or Indian) officers and they were re-introduced once more during the Second World War.

Although the flow of Indian officers increased after the opening of Dehra Dun, the process of Indianisation as a whole can be judged a failure – a political expedient intended only as a sop to

Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvie David Bennett, the commanding officer of the 2/15th Punjabis, at Jhelum in 1926. His uniform is drab with scarlet facings – the other battalions of the regiment wore scarlet with buff facings. Bennett had commanded his regiment as a major during the First World War, and commanded once again, as a lieutenant-colonel, from 1926 until his early retirement in 1933. He went on to reach the grand age of 102, dying only in 1987. (Liddle Collection)



The grass green regimental colour of the 2/1st Punjabis; the honours are those of the battalion's predecessors, the 66th Punjabis. Indian Army colours followed British practice. Most of the honours shown here are no longer displayed, having been declared 'repugnant' to modern Indian sentiment; the battalion is now the senior battalion of the senior regiment of the modern Indian Army, the Brigade of Guards.

nationalist opinion. By effectively segregating Indian officers into their own regiments (to ensure that they would never have command over a British officer) and differentiating in terms of pay between British and Indian, it provoked deep feelings of resentment. The scheme, which envisaged the replacement of British officers by Indians only when the former retired from the service, would not have resulted in an all-Indian officer corps until 1967. The pace of change became intolerable in wartime and Indianisation was swept away by the manpower needs of the Second World War. Two further categories of officer, Emergency Commissioned Officers and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs and IECOs) were created and all officers were paid at the same rates. The view held by many politicians and generals, that Indian troops needed the steadying influence of British officers, was shown to be nonsense, and by the end of the war many units were serving effectively under their Indian officers.

Indian recruits, normally from the 16–25 age range, served for a period of 21 years with the option of re-enlisting for a further four years with the colours or four in the Reserve with a pension. However, the army Reserve scheme had not been a success, partly because it was too inflexible: the scheme only allowed for the call-up of all the reserves together rather than giving priority to the recall of the younger, more recently trained men. Also, the physical condition of many of the recalled reservists was far too poor for them to be anything but a liability to the service. A new organisation, the Indian Territorial Force, was therefore formed in 1921. Its battalions were numbered as the 11th etc. battalion of the parent regiment. Training took place for 28 days a year during the cold months, with the intention that in war time the battalion would be brought up to strength and could take its place alongside the regular battalions. The purpose of the Territorial Force was two-fold – it would not only provide a reserve of troops, but would also diffuse nationalist opinion by appearing to give Indians more responsibility for their own defence. Further to this end, students were enrolled in a number of University Training Corps battalions. However, the units were in general starved of money and this greatly restricted their effectiveness – the 11/17th Dogras, for example, did not receive Bren guns and mortars until 1941.

In peacetime, a considerable amount of recruiting was done through the Cold Weather Tour. During the cold winter months a British officer would set off to visit the recruiting area allotted to his regiment. Cards were printed off detailing the route and former members of the regiment were given an open invitation to attend, perhaps to discuss grievances or to bring in a member of the family who wished to join up. In Charles Allen's book *Plain Tales From The Raj*, General Sir Reginald Savory, an officer with the 11th Sikhs between 1914 and 1930, remembered that, 'at the entrance to the village you'd probably be met

by the local village band, big drum, pipes, side-drums, many of them retired drummers from the regiment. Then you'd be received by your head host, generally one of the senior ex-army officers, and brought out under the great village tree, the peepul tree, under which the whole village would come and sit and keep out of the rain and sun'.

The relationship between British officer and Indian soldier was unusual for a modern army. 'From the day a man joined his unit and came under your command,' explained Brigadier F.J. Dillon, a mountain artillery officer in the 1920s, in *Plain Tales*, 'he became yours in a much more personal way than in the British Army. You knew all about him, where he came from, what his family was. You probably visited his village and actually knew his parents. And he certainly relied on you if ever he was in trouble'. The tradition of service within a family was something common to both British and Indian soldiers and developed an *esprit de corps* within a regiment, which was built around a network of personal loyalties, bonds which went beyond those of formal regulation and duty. Keeping in touch with ex-members of the regiment and dealing with their grievances in person, both features of the Cold Weather Tour, helped to strengthen these ties still further.

Although the army fought two major frontier campaigns in the inter-war period (the Third Afghan War of 1919 and the operations against the Fakir of Ipi during the period 1936–37), by far its largest task was that of internal security, acting in aid of the civil power. The civilian police found it increasingly difficult to cope with threats that ranged from industrial unrest to outright terrorism, and the burden of maintaining order fell more and more on the army, particularly the British and Gurkha battalions. This was always a distasteful job with adverse effects on both morale and training. General Sir Edmund Ironside, commander of the Meerut District between 1928 and 1931, commented that three or four years spent on these duties rendered a British battalion virtually useless. The tactics adopted in the face of unrest were first to order a bugler to blow the Alarm, then to display a large notice reading 'Disperse or I will fire' in Hindi and Urdu. If the trouble continued a marksman would be ordered to shoot to wound one of the ringleaders, preferably in the leg. This was normally sufficient to restore order, but from time to time, such as during the Communist-inspired Red Shirt riots at Peshawar in 1930, stronger measures including the use of armoured cars had to be employed. No matter what the tactics were, however, duties of this kind hardly constituted the ideal preparation for a war against a major power.

The Frontier Column

The large frontier expeditions against rebellious tribes that characterised warfare on the North-West Frontier in the late Victorian period had become a thing of the past. During the 1920s and 1930s the 'frontier column' was preferred. The frontier column normally consisted of a brigade, made up of three or four infantry battalions plus supporting arms, and was strong enough to deal with any local discontent amongst the tribes. Indeed, such a show of force was often sufficient to nip trouble in the bud. If the authorities had to resort to stronger measures to quell a disturbance they characteristically levied a fine from the village at the source of the trouble, or in the worst cases,

Moving between one location and another it was not always possible to use the railways, and regiments had to rely on their own feet. Here, the 5/13th Frontier Force Rifles, preceded by their band, march from Kohat to Bannu in December 1930. (Liddle Collection)

burnt the village. Political pressure on the Indian Government demanded that the columns move quickly and at minimum cost in terms of lives. In general, they provided an effective short-term solution to problems of local discontent, acceptable to both sides. The frontier tribes – the Mahsuds, Wazirs, Afridis, Orakzais, Mohmands and others – were willing to accept the check, provided it did not mean the permanent occupation of their lands; the British were aware of this, and knew also that the cost of occupation would be prohibitive.

In May 1937 the Bannu Brigade (Brigadier F.H. Maynard) was engaged in operations against the Tori Khel Waziris, the followers of a local holy man, Haji Mirza Ali Khan, known to the British as the Fakir of Ipi. In composition the brigade was typical of a frontier column. The advance guard consisted of the 2/11th Sikhs, accompanied by a section of Sappers and Miners; this was followed by the main body, which comprised 2/4th Gurkhas, 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 7th and 19th Mountain Batteries, 12th Field Company, Madras Sappers and Miners, 8th Field Ambulance, a Supply Issue Section and the second line pack transport; bringing up the rear was 1/17th Dogras. One company of Argylls and one company of Dogras were detailed to provide close protection and to help with the mules. The column was accompanied by seven platoons of the Tochi Scouts, who acted as scouts and outlying piquets. (Occasionally, a column such as this might be accompanied by a number of armoured cars belonging to one of the Royal Tank Corps companies stationed in India.)

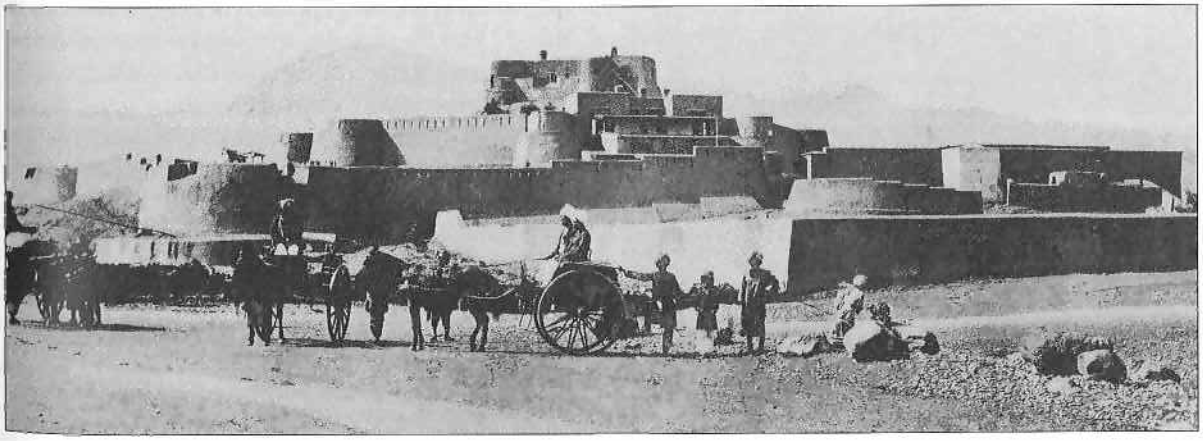
Although huge forces were no longer the order of the day, the wealth of experience in frontier warfare acquired over the years had not been wasted, and a number of sensible procedures had been instituted which governed the progress of the column in hostile territory. One of the most important of these was piqueting. Since the columns moved towards their objective – a rebellious village, for example – along river

valleys, control of the hills overlooking their route was vital. One battalion would provide the advance guard and would be responsible for posting piquets on the hills. Their location was then passed to the battalion's support company and to the column's artillery so that everyone knew exactly which hills were being piqueted. The piquets themselves carried a signalling flag and a number of white air identification strips, both to mark their own location and to indicate the direction of an attack.

After the main body of the column had passed through it was the responsibility of the battalion acting as the rear guard to collect up these piquets by means of flag or heliograph (and, eventually, by radio). The rear guard also carried a large red flag to mark the very end of the column and no man was allowed to fall behind it. As the piquets rejoined the column they were checked off against a tally made by the advance guard to ensure that none had been forgotten. The withdrawal of the final piquet was often a dangerous task, conducted under hostile fire whilst moving down one hill and climbing up the next, and one which encouraged a certain level of fitness in those entrusted with it.

It was an inviolable rule that no wounded man should ever be left behind, since anyone unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of the tribes would die a terrible, lingering death. If necessary a counterattack was quickly organised to ensure that the wounded were retrieved. It was also important not to abandon any rifles, or even to leave behind cartridge cases because they too would fall into enemy hands. Memories could be remarkably long when such incidents were concerned: 'Oh, that regiment – oh yes, weren't they the ones who lost those rifles in Tirah in 1894?' Any soldier who lost his rifle was fined the cost of its replacement – 84 rupees, 4 annas (around £12) – but despite the most stringent of precautions, rifle thieves ('loose *wallahs*') often found a way to make off with their prize.

The rough nature of the terrain and the need to halt whilst the piquets were sent out meant that a column often made only slow progress. Even if no attack had taken place, a column would often cover no more than five or six miles per day. Each evening it would make its camp. The camp layouts were generally rectangular, but could vary according to the size of the column and the nature of the terrain. Camps shared several other common features. The lines of the infantry



Jamrud Fort. This had been built by Hari Singh, the Sikh Governor of Peshawar in 1823, but had been much strengthened by the British, since it guarded the southern end of the Khyber Pass and the approaches to Peshawar from Afghanistan.

A Marmon-Herrington armoured car of C Sqn, 1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry (Skinner's Horse). This premier Indian cavalry unit at first provided the divisional mechanised cavalry regiment for the 5th Indian Division in Italian East Africa and the Middle East, later transferring to the 10th Division. (IWM IND761)

battalions formed the perimeter and each of the four camp gates was made the sole responsibility of one of the battalions. The supporting arms were placed in the centre. The perimeter of the camp was reinforced by a breast-high wall and corner posts were created for each battalion's medium machine guns. Men slept chained to their rifles and a reserve, the 'inlying piquet', was maintained fully armed and equipped in case of emergency.

Except for the most determined of tribesmen, however, an attack on the column on the march was far preferable to an attack against a fortified camp. Whilst the benefits of correct and efficient piqueting were well known, any failure to put the theory into practice would immediately be exploited. The dangers to the column were increased because the tribes now included men who had served in the Indian Army during the First World War – men who knew the value of camouflage and concealment and who were able to put their army training to good effect.

Accompanied on this occasion by a detachment of the South Waziristan Scouts, the Bannu Brigade was once more chasing the Fakir in June 1937. The Sikh battalion failed to piquet a ridge that ran parallel to the road, leaving a gap a mile wide between the Sikh piquets and those of the Dogras. Mahsud tribesmen immediately tried to filter through the gap and take both Indian battalions in the flank. The Scouts, who were building that night's camp, were sent to plug the gap, but after a hand-to-hand struggle were forced from their position. The Scouts then rallied; with the arrival of reinforcements they retook the position and were eventually relieved by the Gurkhas.

What counted most in frontier fighting was experience, but often this experience could only be gained at a bloody price. The constant rotation of regular battalions, British and Indian, in and out of frontier posts could result in a battalion forgetting everything it had learnt, sometimes with disastrous consequences on its next tour of frontier duty. Snipers were a constant hazard for both the marching column and the camp. The inexperienced regiment tended to blaze away immediately with every weapon they could lay their hands upon, but such tactics were rarely successful. Opprobrium was heaped on a unit that adopted this approach: 'Oh, they're the chaps that shoot back at snipers!' The experienced regiment waited until it could pinpoint the sniper's precise location, then sent out a party at night to eliminate the threat.

Incidentally, the British never caught up with the Fakir Mirza Ali Kahn, who continued to be a thorn in the side of post-partition Pakistan until his death in 1960.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Indian Army entered the Second World War woefully underprepared. The amount of money devoted to the army by the Government of India had slowly declined after the end of the First World War. Despite a subsidy from Great Britain it was left desperately short of modern weapons and equipment and it did not possess sufficient men able to handle mechanical transport – not a single member of the Royal Deccan Horse, for example, knew how to drive. Only with the recruitment of a large number of Madrassis and Mahrattas did this situation begin to change. Neither the Japanese depredations in China nor the outbreak of war in Europe disturbed the sanguine outlook of the British and Indian Governments – indeed, the advice coming from London was that it was unlikely that Indian troops would be required at all.

The extent of the government's miscalculation was apparent when, at the outbreak of war, the Indian Army quickly found itself in the field again, immediately contributing two divisions (the 4th and 5th Infantry Divisions) to the operations in the Western Desert and Abyssinia (and, curiously, four mule companies of the RIASC to the British Expeditionary Force in France). Three Indian divisions (the 4th, 8th and 10th) went on to make a significant contribution to the campaigns in North Africa and Italy, from Mersa Matruh to the Gothic Line and the final crossing of the River Po. Another force intervened in Iraq and Persia to safeguard the overland route to the Soviet Union and also provided the trucks used to deliver aid. At this stage of the war training in India was directed entirely towards preparing for campaigns in North Africa and the Middle East. Nothing at all was done to strengthen the defences of Burma and Malaya, since the Japanese were discounted as a real threat, and the garrisons of both countries consisted only of Indian States battalions and Indian Army battalions weakened by the departure of drafts sent to reinforce the units in Africa.

The fallacy of this view of Japanese intentions was quickly revealed. The disasters of 1941 and 1942 in the Far East saw many Indian battalions sent into captivity in Singapore (67,340 men of the Indian Army became prisoners of war), whilst others were pushed out of Burma until the front line became the frontier of India itself. Slowly, but with increasing momentum, matériel to re-equip the army was brought in by sea or even manufactured in India. In April 1942 General Sir Archibald Wavell, the C-in-C India, abolished the existing structure of regional commands and replaced them with a single, unified command (Central) and three armies (North-Western, Southern and Eastern); it was the Eastern Army that attacked so disastrously in the Arakan in 1942. It was renamed the 14th Army in October 1943 and received a new commander, General William Slim. One month later, GHQ India was placed under Mountbatten's newly formed South-East Asia Command. SEAC took over the prosecution of the war, whilst

An Indian Pattern Carrier of Skinner's Horse is put through its paces. The high-sided, locally made armoured body was married with a Canadian Ford four-wheeled chassis; a total of 4,655 examples were built, in six variants. This particular vehicle was paid for through a subscription by members of the Bengal Police. (IWM IND759)

A group of troopers of the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers (Watson's), the recce regiment of 8th Indian Division, fraternise with one of the locals in an Italian hill town in 1944. The men are wearing standard British-style wool serge battledress; the black beret of the Royal Armoured Corps bears the regimental cap badge, but they display no other insignia. (IWM NA8534)

Central Command, now renamed India Command, became a vast recruiting and training organisation.

Wavell did not survive the re-organisation in post as both he, and to a large extent the Indian Army as a whole, had forfeited the confidence of Churchill (who had been convinced by the actions of Gandhi and Nehru that the whole sub-continent was about to erupt in rebellion). Nevertheless, the reforms introduced by Wavell and continued by his successor, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, succeeded in creating a well trained and well disciplined force that was to prove more than capable of meeting its Japanese opponents and defeating them. The first step had been to call a halt to the expansion of the army, which had taken place at the cost of efficiency at unit level. Secondly, a new outlook on training was introduced – the work of the Director of Infantry, Major-General Reginald Savory – which was characterised by a regime of tough and realistic battle drills supplemented by further training when the units arrived in Burma. Schools were established to provide instruction in the latest tactical doctrines, and emphasise the necessity of close co-operation between all arms.

Indian opinion was by no means united in its attitude to the war. Opposition came largely from the Hindu-based Congress Party, led by Gandhi and Nehru, who saw the war as an opportunity to rid India of the British once and for all. As a result it proved necessary to divert 57 infantry battalions to carry out internal security duties, particularly in the north of the country, where they were faced with violent demonstrations and acts of petty sabotage. About one-third of the total of 60,000 Indian prisoners who had been captured in Malaya and Singapore were persuaded to join the 'Indian National Army' (known to the British as 'Jifs' – Japanese Indian Forces). The National Army was led by a member of the Congress Party, Subhas Chandra Bose. Bose had raised a small unit of Indian volunteers from soldiers captured in the Western Desert; he then moved to the Far East in 1943 and threw in his lot with the Japanese. Although the Japanese formed a number of units in the Indian National Army these did not make any significant military contribution to the Burmese campaign – most surrendered on contact with Allied troops. Bose himself died following a plane crash in August 1945.

It is, nevertheless, remarkable that only 20 years after the massacre of unarmed civilians at Amritsar in 1919 – a true crisis in Anglo-Indian

Service of Indian divisions 1939–46

Infantry Divisions

1st: pre-war division, disbanded September 1939

2nd: pre-war division, disbanded September 1939; re-formed March 1942; Iraq lines of communication duties; disbanded January 1945

3rd: pre-war division, disbanded September 1939; re-formed September 1943; Burma (Chindit operations); disbanded March 1945

4th: formed September 1939; Western Desert, Eritrea, Syria, Tunisia, Italy, Greece; disbanded August 1945

5th: formed September 1939; Sudan, Eritrea, Western Desert, Burma, Java; disbanded 1946

6th: formed March 1941; Iraq; disbanded November 1944

7th: formed October 1940; Burma, Malaya; disbanded 1946

8th: formed October 1940; Persia, Syria, Western Desert, Italy; disbanded 1945

9th: formed September 1940; Malaya, Singapore; captured February 1942

10th: formed January 1941; Iraq, Persia, Western Desert, Italy; disbanded 1946

11th: formed October 1940; Malaya, Singapore; captured February 1942

12th: formed January 1943; Persia, Iraq; redesignated South Persia Area January 1945

14th: formed May 1942; Burma, re-formed as a training division in India June 1943; disbanded 1945

17th: formed March 1941, Burma; disbanded 1946

19th: formed May 1942; Burma; disbanded 1946

20th: formed June 1942; Assam, Burma, Indochina; disbanded 1946

21st: formed April 1944; Assam; became 44th Airborne Division June 1944

23rd: formed January 1942; Burma, Malaya, Java; disbanded 1947

25th: formed August 1942; Burma, Malaya; disbanded 1946

26th: formed April 1942; Burma, Java, Sumatra; disbanded 1946

34th: formed March 1942; Ceylon garrison; disbanded 1945

36th: formed February 1943 from Combined Training Centre; converted to British Division September 1944

39th: formed June 1942 from 1st Burma Division, training in India; disbanded 1945

Armoured Divisions

31st: formed August 1940 as 1st Armoured Division, redesignated 31st, December 1941; Iraq, Syria, Western Desert; disbanded 1946

32nd: formed April 1941 as 2nd Armoured Division, redesignated 32nd, December 1941; India; broken up to form 44th in 1943

43rd: formed July 1942; India; broken up to form 44th Division February 1943

44th: formed February 1943 from 32nd and 43rd Divisions; Burma; reformed as 21st Infantry Division April 1944

Airborne Division

44th: formed June 1944 from 21st Infantry Division; Burma

Other formations

Iraq Force: formed Iraq April 1941, from Habforce and Kingcol; disbanded June 1941

1st Burma Division: formed March 1941; destroyed in action in Burma May 1942; remnants reformed as 39th Infantry Division June 1942

relations – so many Indians gave their support to the war effort. Some 2 1/2 million officers and men were serving by August 1945, compared to 900,000 in 1941, and 30 VCs were won. The seemingly more moderate Muhammed Ali Jinnah of the Muslim League condemned the violence inspired by the Congress Party, which in turn led the British to regard the Muslim population of India as the more reliable. Significantly, although there were three times as many Hindus as Muslims in the Indian population, Muslim regiments provided 65 per cent of Indian troops fighting in North Africa, Italy and Burma.

Representative action: The capture of Meiktila, 1945

Whilst Indian regiments fought on most of the fronts of the Second World War, their most significant contribution came in Burma. The reconquest of Burma was essential for the British in order to safeguard the north-east frontier of India. Moving the front line further east would also contribute to the safety of the airfields in the north of the country, which were being used to channel supplies to the Chinese forces of Chiang Kai-shek. The first step was to clear the Japanese forces from the west bank of the River Chindwin, and this was completed by the end of November 1944.

The next stage of the campaign was to be Operation 'Capital'. Plans were based on the assumption that the Japanese would try to hold the

The Maharajah of Patiala inspects the men of 6 (Royal) Bn/13th Frontier Force Rifles in Italy, 1944. The men wear GS caps, collarless shirts, battledress trousers and pullovers in a variety of shades. The major and *subedar-major* (far right) wear battledress, and have discs of cloth – possibly in red, the regimental facing colour – backing their cap badges. Note that all ranks wear the formation sign of 8th Indian Division: three long-stalked leaves, resembling shamrocks, in yellow on a red backing, sometimes edged khaki. (IWM NA19367)

important centre of Mandalay by fighting a battle to the north of the city, around Shwebo, where it was hoped that the flat terrain would make Japanese positions easy meat for Allied armour and fighter-bombers. However, to think this was to misread Japanese intentions, for they had in fact decided to fall back and defend the eastern bank of the Irrawaddy. Quickly re-arranging his priorities the GOC-in-C of the 14th Army, General Slim, launched Operation 'Extended Capital' with a view to by-passing Mandalay to the south and capturing the strategic rail centre of Meiktila, thus cutting the Japanese forces in Burma in two.

Whilst XXXIII Corps (Lt. Gen. Sir Montague Stopford) kept up the pressure against Shwebo, Gen. Slim planned for 14th Army's other formation, IV Corps (Lt. Gen. Frank Messervy), to advance in a right hook down the Kabaw valley, and catch the Japanese by surprise. XXXIII Corps made its first bridgehead across the Irrawaddy, north of Mandalay, which was established on 9 January 1945 by 19th Division. The Japanese, believing this to be just another Chindit-style operation, at first discounted it; when, as reinforcements moved in, they came to realise the truth it was too late. Within four weeks, two other bridgeheads had been created. The Japanese tried to dislodge these footholds, but they were running out of reserves and in the final analysis could only contain, but not eliminate them.

This left the way clear for IV Corps to advance down the Kabaw valley. Progress was by no means easy for, although there was no Japanese opposition, the poor state of the roads and the hilly nature of the terrain made progress exceptionally difficult, and prodigies were performed by the engineers and by Allied airmen to keep the troops resupplied. Even then, the tanks had to move on their own tracks for much of the way because their transporters could not get through. To keep the Japanese in the dark about the actual crossing place three feints were made across the river by three different brigades (14th, 28th East African and 89th). The real crossing point, at Nyaungu, was apparently ignored. However, a reconnaissance had been made by a Sea Reconnaissance Unit and a Special Boat Service section. The attack, led by 2nd South Lancashires, went ahead at dawn on 14 February.

When the blow finally fell it was upon on a small contingent of Bose's Indian National Army, who immediately surrendered. In the town of Nyaungu there was some resistance from a Japanese garrison, who withdrew into nearby caves. Rather than risk heavy casualties winkling the

enemy out the caves were simply dynamited, entombing the defenders. Quickly deploying a mixture of pontoon ferries and Bailey rafts, 7th Division proceeded to form the bridgehead whilst 17th Division (Maj. Gen. D.T. 'Punch' Cowan), supported by 255th Tank Brigade (Brigadier Claude Pert), passed through and began the dash for Meiktila. Pert's force consisted of two of the brigade's three armoured regiments (116th Regiment RAC had been left behind to protect the bridgehead), their motor battalion, 4/4th Grenadiers, followed by 48th and 63rd Infantry Brigades plus support from Corps troops in the form of 16th Light Cavalry's armoured cars (less one squadron with 7th Division), 59th Self-Propelled Battery, Royal Artillery (equipped with Sextons) and 6/7th Rajputs.

Once again, the Japanese misread the situation and concentrated their efforts on dislodging the feint bridgehead at Seikpyu manned by 28th East African Brigade Group. Supported by RAF fighter-bombers the tanks of 255th Brigade were able to brush aside any opposition they encountered. A forward airfield was readied at Thabukton, 15 miles away from Meiktila, enabling Cowan to fly in reinforcements and, more importantly, petrol and ammunition. This airfield became even more vital when a Japanese counterattack temporarily severed Cowan from his bridgehead on the Irrawaddy.

Lieutenant Karamjeet Singh Judge, VC, of the 4/15th Punjabis. On 18 March 1945, during the defence of 7th Division's bridgehead on the Irrawaddy River near Myingyan, central Burma, Lt Judge won a posthumous Victoria Cross for coolly directing tanks of 116th Regt RAC against Japanese bunkers; he then proceeded to lead a number of charges which wiped out ten Japanese positions before being mortally wounded. (IWM IND4713)

The attack on Meiktila began at dawn on 1 March. The town itself was set amongst rolling hills between two large lakes, which were shallow at that time of year, as was the river that fed them. To the east of the town were cultivated fields, but cactus thorn bushes grew everywhere and made progress difficult. The town's Japanese garrison consisted of two airfield battalions, a reinforcement battalion of three provisional companies and some administrative units; their numbers were boosted by the arrival of 168th Infantry Regiment en route for its parent division further north, which attached itself to the defenders.

255th Tank Brigade, supported by the self-propelled battery and 6/7th Rajputs, went around the eastern (rear) side of the position. The first attack penetrated into the town itself, but the armour withdrew as night fell, careful not to be caught amongst the ruins overnight. A second attack on the following day saw the capture of the pagoda on Point 860, a hill overlooking the whole town. On the other side of Meiktila the 48th and 63rd Brigades attacked either side of the North Lake. Each brigade was accompanied by a squadron of Shermans – from the Royal Deccan Horse and from Probyn's Horse respectively – and supported by the divisional artillery and RAF bombers. Despite determined resistance they penetrated the defences to the west and north and, after some bitter hand-to-hand fighting, the town fell on 3 March. Mopping up took a further two days.

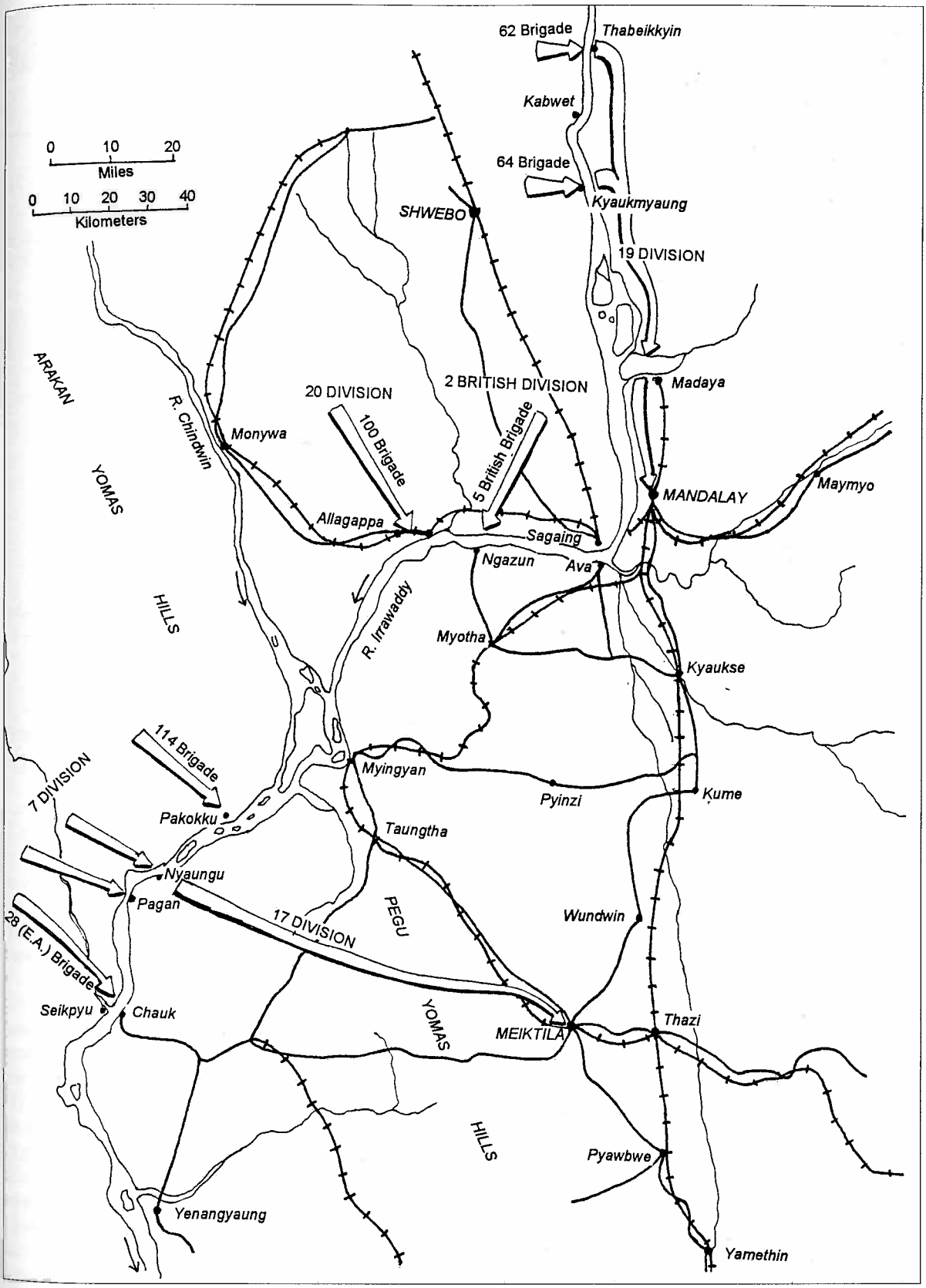
***Anzac*, an M4 Sherman of 5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse), 255 Indian Tank Bde, approaches Meiktila during IV Corps' advance. On foot in front of the tank is Lt Bahadur Singh, MC. (IWM IND4469)**

This was not the end of the battle, for the Japanese were determined to retake the town immediately. It was quickly surrounded by their 18th and 49th Divisions but, fortunately for the British, the two Japanese commanders made little attempt to co-ordinate their attacks. The garrison, now joined by 99th Brigade, was completely dependent upon air resupply. The failure of the enemy to produce an effective strategy now cost them dear because they were unable to mount an attack sufficiently strong to retake the airstrip at Meiktila defended by a contingent of the RAF Regiment. Further, they were kept off balance by General Cowan's aggressive defence, which sent out joint infantry–armour columns, supported from the air, on sweeps around the perimeter which often lasted for 48 hours at a time. These had the effect of continually disrupting Japanese assault preparations; and when 9th Brigade (belonging to 5th Division) was airlifted in under fire as further reinforcements on 15 March, the siege was effectively at an end. After one final assault on the night of 20 March the Japanese withdrew; the defenders were able to link up with a column driving south from Mandalay, and the remainder of 5th Division could now join up with 9th Brigade within the perimeter. Japanese casualties were high: 800 men were killed and only 36 were taken prisoner.

The capture of Meiktila unhinged the whole Japanese position in northern Burma and Mandalay fell at the end of March. Slim could now turn his attention to the south, towards Rangoon, whilst the Japanese could only withdraw across hostile terrain in small parties.

Both in conception and execution 'Capital' and 'Extended Capital' were masterstrokes. Slim was not put off his stride when faced with the Japanese withdrawal to the Irrawaddy, but merely recast his plans to take advantage of the new situation. The men of the Royal Deccan Horse and Probyn's Horse were by no means experienced, battle-hardened veterans of armoured combat when they entered the campaign; nevertheless, they quickly exhibited a mastery of their art. The advance of their brigade provided a fine demonstration of the fruits of years of army–air force co-operation, learned in the Western Desert and in Normandy. Both operations stand as tribute to Savory's work in India as well as to the professionalism of the Indian Army.

OPPOSITE **The crossings of the Irrawaddy, 1945, from information in Allen (see Select Bibliography) and the *Official History*.**


62 Brigade
Thabeikkyin
Kabwet
64 Brigade
Kyaukmyaung
19 DIVISION
SHWEBO
0 10 20
Miles
0 10 20 30 40
Kilometers
ARAKAN
YOMAS
HILLS
R. Chindwin
20 DIVISION
100 Brigade
2 BRITISH DIVISION
5 British Brigade
Monywa
Madaya
MANDALAY
Maymyo
Allagappa
Sagaing
Ngazun
Ava
R. Irrawaddy
Myotha
Kyaukse
114 Brigade
7 DIVISION
Myingyan
Pyinzi
Kume
Pakokku
Taungtha
Nyaungu
Pagan
17 DIVISION
PEGU
Wundwin
28 (E.A.) Brigade
Seikpyu
Chauk
YOMAS
MEIKTILA
Thazi
HILLS
Pyawbwe
Yenangyaung
Yamethin

Order of battle, forces engaged in the Battle of Meiktila, February–March 1945

IV Corps (Lt. Gen. Frank Messervy)

Corps troops: 8th Medium Regiment RA, 1st LAA Regiment IA, 67th HAA Regiment IA, 12th Engineer Battalion IE, 75th, 424th and 94th (Faridkot) Field Companies Indian Engineers

255th Tank Brigade (Brigadier C. Pert): 116th Regiment Royal Armoured Corps; 5th Lancers (Probyn's), 9th Royal Deccan Horse, 4/4th Bombay Grenadiers

28th (East African) Infantry Brigade Group (Brig. T.H.J. Galletly): 7th (Uganda), 46th (Tanganyika) and 71st (Somali) Battalions, King's African Rifles, 63rd (East Africa) Field Co. East African Engineers

5th Indian Division (Maj. Gen. E.C.R. Mansergh)

9th Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. J.A. Salomons): 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment, 3/2nd Punjab Regiment, 4th Jammu and Kashmir Infantry (ISF)

123rd Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. E.J. Denholm Young): 2nd Suffolk Regiment, 2/1st Punjab Regiment, 1/17th Dogra Regiment

161st Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. E.G.C. Poole): 4th QO Royal West Kent Regiment, 1/1st Punjab Regiment, 4/7th Rajput Regiment

Divisional troops: 4th and 28th Field Regiments RA, 24th Mountain Regiment IA, 56th A/T Regiment RA, 2nd, 20th and 74th Field Cos. Indian Engineers, 44th Field Park Co. Indian Engineers, 3/9th Jat Regiment (recce), 7/14th Punjab Regiment, Machine Gun Battalion/17th Dogra Regiment

7th Indian Division (Maj. Gen. G.C. Evans)

33rd Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. R.G. Collingwood): 4/15th Punjab Regiment, 4/1st Gurkha Rifles, 1st Burma Regiment

89th Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. W.A. Crowther): 2nd KOSB, 1/11th Sikh Regiment, 4/8th Gurkha Rifles

114th Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. H.W. Dinwiddie): 2nd South Lancashire Regiment, 4/14th Punjab Regiment, 4/5th Gurkha Rifles

Divisional troops: 136th and 139th Field Regiments RA, 24th Anti-Tank Regiment RA, 25th Mountain Regiment IA, 62nd, 77th and 421st Field Cos. Indian Engineers, 331st Field Park Co. Indian Engineers, 7/2nd Punjab Regiment (recce), 2nd Baroda Infantry (ISF), Machine Gun Battalion/13th Frontier Force Rifles

17th Indian Division (Maj. Gen. D.T. Cowan)

48th Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. R.C.O. Hedley): 1st West Yorkshire Regiment, 4/12th Frontier Force Regiment, 1/7th Gurkha Rifles

63rd Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. G.W.S. Burton): 9th Border Regiment, 7/10th Baluch Regiment, 1/10th Gurkha Rifles

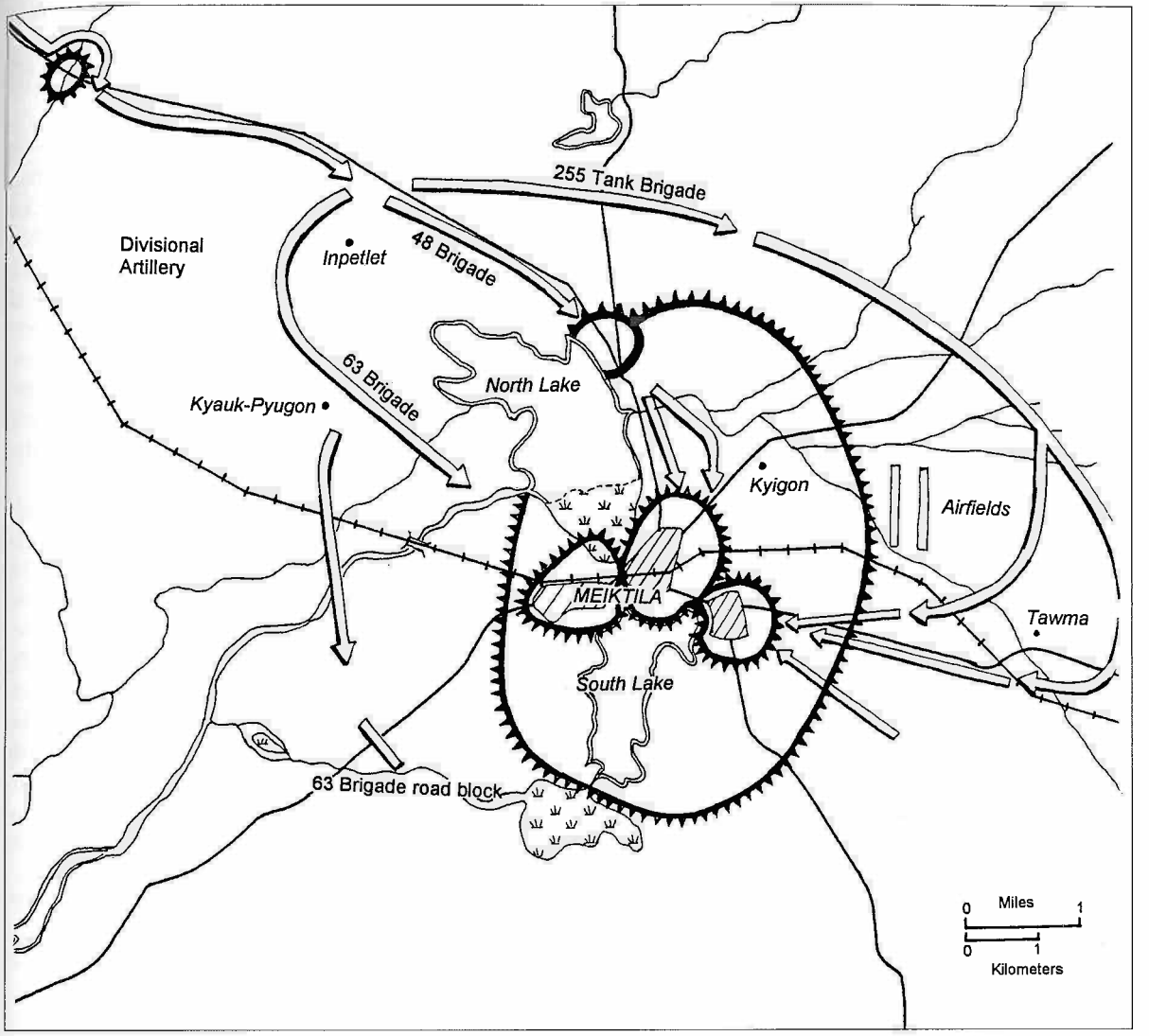
99th Indian Infantry Brigade (Brig. G.L. Tarver): 6/15th Punjab Regiment, 1/Sikh Light Infantry, 1/3rd Gurkha Rifles

Divisional troops: 129th Field Regiment RA, 1st Field Regiment IA, 21st Mountain Regiment, IA, 82nd A/T Regiment RA; 60th and 70th Field Cos. Indian Engineers, Tehri Garhwal Field Co. ISF, 6/9th Jat Regiment (recce), 6/7th Rajput Regiment, 9(MG)/13th Frontier Force Rifles

PARTITION

Despite the end of hostilities, Indian troops continued to be engaged in garrison and peace-keeping duties in Greece, Egypt, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia and Indochina, as well as forming part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. Their task in Indonesia became particularly difficult. Landing in support of the Dutch, the pre-war colonial power, a single brigade (the 49th, detached from 23rd Division) proved insufficient to control nationalist forces, losing 18 officers and 374 men as casualties within three days. It proved necessary to reinforce 49th Brigade by a full division (the 5th) with armoured support, but even this much strengthened force could do little more than control the main urban centres such as Soerabaja (the modern Surabaya). Many of the regiments occupied on these duties across the world only returned to India upon Partition in 1947.

A committee, chaired by J.E. Willcox, had been set up in 1944 to consider the post-war size of the Indian Army. Amongst its recommendations were changes in the structure of the army and in the number of regiments – the cavalry arm in particular was again to be reduced. However, all these proposals were shelved on Partition. In 1946, the British Government had finally agreed to demands for Indian



The capture of Meiktila, March 1945, from information in Allen, the *Official History*, and *Tank Tracks to Rangoon* by Bryan Perrett.

independence, setting a date of August 1947 for the transfer of power. At the same time the territory of India was to be divided into two, splitting off the largely Muslim communities in the north-west and the east of the sub-continent to form the new country of Pakistan.

The Indian Army was also divided up, following lines of class and religion, with men and equipment divided on a 2:1 basis in favour of the new India. In addition, four of the army's ten Gurkha regiments (the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles) were transferred to British service, the remainder going to India. Single class regiments were easily allocated to one of the two new countries, but mixed class regiments had to be dismembered, Hindu companies or squadrons joining the new Indian Army, whilst their Muslim brothers-in-arms left for Pakistan. The whole process was completed in a most professional manner, the army remaining relatively immune from the religious fanaticism at large elsewhere in the country, which resulted in so many hundreds of thousands of deaths. There could be no more eloquent testimony to the *esprit de corps* of the old Indian Army.

Cavalry

Every cavalry regiment in 1914 was commanded by a British colonel with a headquarters staff, which included the regiment's senior Indian officer, the *risaldar-major*; and four sabre squadrons, each commanded by a British officer and second-in-command. Each squadron was divided into two troops each commanded by a *risaldar* with a *jemadar* as second-in-command. Each troop consisted of a *kot-dafadar*, eight *dafadars*, a trumpeter and 70 *sowars*. All ranks carried a sword; NCOs and troopers also carried a rifle and a lance in those regiments designated as lancers. Each regiment also included a section of Hotchkiss light machine guns. The regiments serving with the Indian Corps in France handed in their lances, but these were later re-issued on a piecemeal basis when the regiments were transferred to Palestine.

Indian cavalry regiments had their own recruiting practices which they had inherited from the armies of the Honourable East India Company. Most cavalry regiments (with the exception of the 26th, 27th and 28th Light Cavalry) were maintained by the *silladar* system. As originally practised this required that every soldier supply his own horse, clothing and equipment, the government providing only his arms. By the outbreak of the First World War, however, the system had been modified so that the regiment provided the horse (in order to make sure it was of good quality) and the equipment in return for a sum of money (the *assami*) paid by the recruit. In 1905, the *assami* amounted to approximately £55; the recruit had to pay at least £10 on joining the regiment and then meet the balance in instalments from his pay, which was around £2 (34 rupees) per month.

At the end of his service the *assami* was either repaid to the soldier, so giving him a handy demobilisation grant, whilst the horse and equipment were made ready for his replacement, or the discharged trooper kept the horse and equipment in lieu of the *assami*. A soldier who was dishonourably discharged forfeited the *assami*, whilst that of a man who died whilst still serving was refunded to his family. Any horse lost on active service was replaced from a regimental fund to which all the men subscribed; a horse lost in peacetime had to be paid for by its rider, but every man's pay was subject to a compulsory savings plan, or 'cuttings', which laid aside a small sum every month towards this eventuality.

A further by-product of the *silladar* system was a certain individuality in regimental equipment. Since this was provided by the regiment rather than by the ordnance services, much of it conformed to the regiment's own particular pattern – quite frequently different from that of any other. This state of affairs was clearly recognised by the Dress and Clothing Regulations where many items were described in no more detail than as being of 'regimental pattern'.

Another unusual characteristic of *silladar* regiments was the *durbar*, a Moghul tradition adopted by the British. The *silladar* regiment was similar to a joint stock company with the men, by virtue of the *assami*, the company's shareholders. The *durbar*, an assembly attended by all the

(continued on page 43)

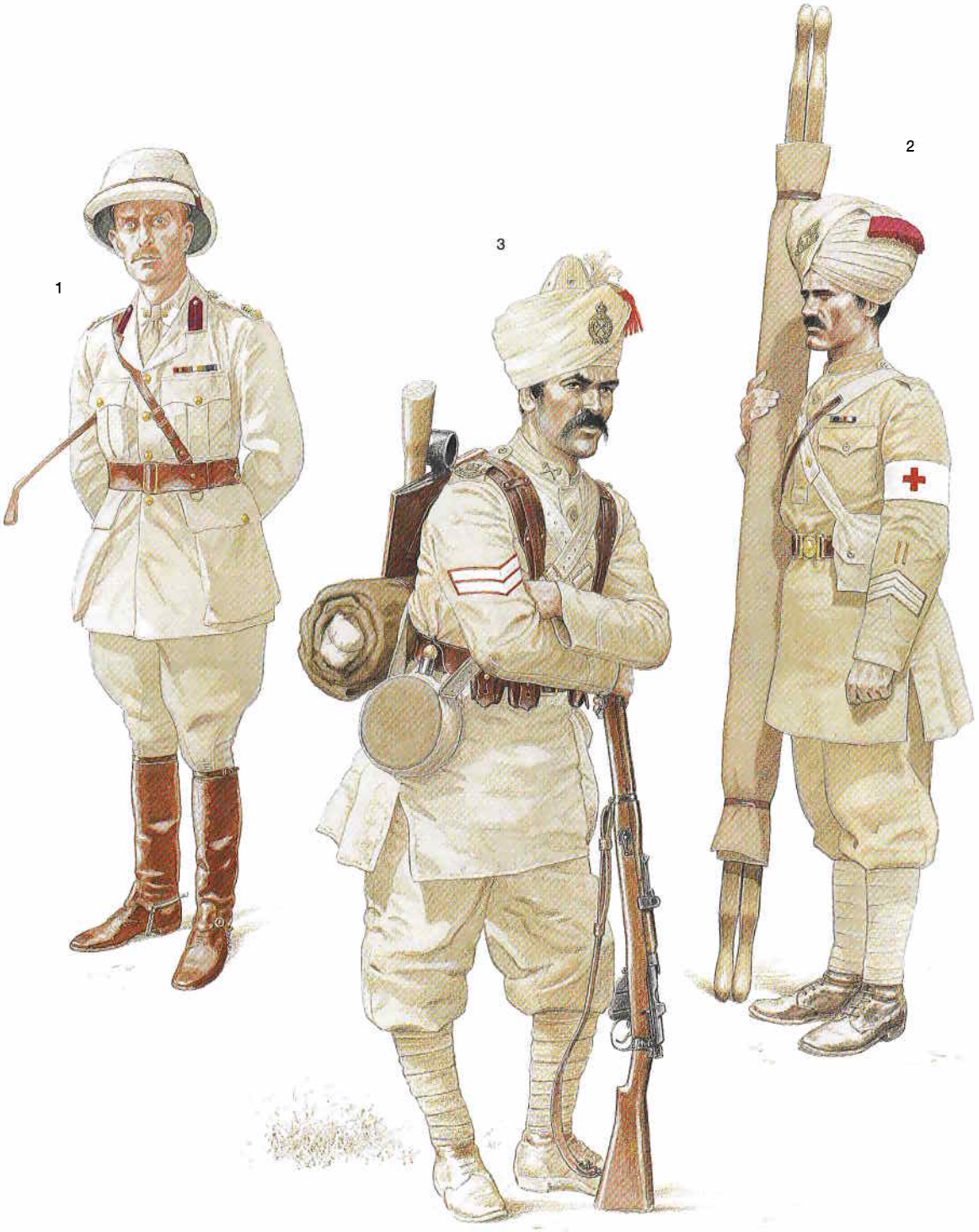
A: FULL DRESS, 1914
1: Sowar, 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry
2: Sepoy, 101st Grenadiers

B: THE WESTERN FRONT, 1914–15
1: Lieutenant, 2/15th Ludhiana Sikhs
2: Sepoy, 129th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis
3: Rifleman, 1/39th Garwhal Rifles

C: THE WESTERN FRONT, 1914–18
1: Sowar, 20th Deccan Horse
2: Dafadar, 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse

D: THE MIDDLE EAST, 1914–18
1: Lance-dafadar, Mysore Lancers
2: Dafadar, 1st Jodhpur Lancers

E: THE MIDDLE EAST, 1914–18
1: Major, Indian Medical Service
2: Stretcher-bearer, Army Bearer Corps
3: Naik, 107th Pioneers



F: BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS

1: Dafadar, Governor-General's Body Guard

2: Trumpeter, Royal Deccan Horse (9th Horse)

G: BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS

1: Muleteer, British Royal Artillery

2: Lance-naik, 1/6th Rajputana Rifles

3: Naik, 5/13th Frontier Force Rifles

H: THE MIDDLE EAST, 1939–45

1: Sepoy, 4th Indian Division; Libya, c1941

2: Subedar, 1/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles; Tunisia, 1943

3: NCO, Central India Horse; Italy, winter 1944/45

I: THE FAR EAST, 1941–45

1: Havildar, 5/14th Punjab Regiment; Malaya, 1941

2: Rifleman, 1/7th Gurkha Rifles; Burma, 1942

3: Naik, 1/11th Sikh Regiment; Burma, 1944–45

J: THE FAR EAST, 1945–46

1: Sapper, Queen Victoria's Own Sappers & Miners, 1945

2: Subedar, 1st Battalion, Indian Parachute Regiment, 1946

3: Jemadar, 2/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles; Japan, 1946

officers and men, gave any man the opportunity to raise any issue concerning the administration of the regiment and its assets and have it considered immediately by the colonel.

Seven extra cavalry regiments (numbered from 40th to 46th) were formed during the First World War. During the conflict, however, the *silladar* system broke down. The supply of special-to-regiment equipment and clothing proved impossible to maintain in overseas theatres, whilst regiments lacked the funds to refund the *assamis* of the unprecedentedly high number of casualties. The raising of regiments by what amounted to a private contract was an anachronism for a modern army and it was abolished.

After the re-organisation of 1922 regiments were reduced to three squadrons of four troops each, one of which was a machine-gun troop, plus a headquarters wing. Like their British counterparts Indian cavalry regiments mechanised only very slowly and reluctantly. The first regiments to be affected were the 13th Lancers and the Scinde Horse, who paraded for the last time with their horses as late as 14 April 1939. Both were designated Frontier Armoured Regiments, and comprised one light tank squadron (with a mixture of Mk. II, IV and VI light tanks) and two armoured car squadrons (equipped with Crossleys). The vehicles were those relinquished by Royal Tank Corps companies returning to England. To ease the problems posed by mechanisation three regiments (12th Cavalry, 15th Lancers and 20th Lancers) were converted into training regiments, whilst the remainder formed large groups based on these three regiments, at depots in Jhansi, Ferozepore and Lucknow respectively.

By the end of 1940 all the cavalry regiments had given up their horses, but were not yet fully armoured. A shortage of AFVs meant that a number of regiments, such as the Central India Horse (the reconnaissance regiment of 4th Infantry Division) or Skinner's Horse (its counterpart in 5th Infantry Division), were equipped only with 15-cwt. trucks – in effect making them understrength motor battalions. Indeed, some regiments served in precisely that role: the 2nd Royal Lancers, 11th Cavalry and 18th Lancers were formed into 3rd Motor Brigade (31st Indian Armoured Division) and sent to North Africa in 1941. There they were thrown into the Tobruk fighting 40 per cent below establishment in machine guns and with only one anti-tank rifle per regiment instead of 42.

Volunteers from the regiments in this brigade went on to form the nucleus of the Indian Long Range Squadron, an LRDG-type unit destined to be employed in Persia and Iraq if the Germans ever reached that far into Asia. The ILRS consisted of a headquarters and four 'patrols', lettered 'J', 'P', 'R', and 'S', containing Jat, Punjabi, Rajput and Sikh personnel respectively. Although the Squadron never saw action against the Germans as a unit both J and R Patrols were attached to the Long Range Desert Group in the Western Desert. It was also employed in patrolling the Persian–Afghan–Soviet border, attempting to put a halt to Soviet penetration of this area.

Of the cavalry regiments existing in 1939 seven had become armoured regiments by 1945, equipped at first with M3 Stuarts and then with M4 Shermans. The Guides Cavalry was the only regiment to receive Churchills, in 1946. One regiment, the Scinde Horse, remained

An M3 Stuart ('Honey') tank of B Sqn, 7th Light Cavalry, 254 Indian Tank Bde photographed on the Imphal plain, Burma, in 1944. The crew all wear the silver regimental badge on the black RAC beret. The man at upper right wears jungle green lightweight battledress; the trooper at right, a JG bush shirt tucked into BD trousers; and the *sowar* at left, one-piece khaki drill overalls with a low stand collar, and single pockets on the left chest and thigh only with pointed, concealed-button flaps. These were not specifically made for armour crews but for motor transport personnel generally. (Courtesy B.Travis)

a Frontier Armoured Regiment throughout the war, but the remainder served as reconnaissance regiments equipped with a variety of armoured cars. During 1941 and 1942 these were usually South African-made Marmon-Herringtons or Morris types, converting as the war progressed to Humbers and Daimlers and in Italy to Staghounds. India's only home-made AFV, the Indian Pattern Carrier, was used to equip some units, such as the Guides Cavalry and the Central India Horse, until the end of the war.

The army had been forced to expand greatly to meet the manpower demands of the war. In 1940 a first armoured division was created, not by converting existing cavalry regiments but by raising brand-new ones, the 42nd to 48th Cavalry. Yet, just as a shortage of vehicles had delayed the pre-war mechanisation of the cavalry, so a wartime shortage of tanks meant that several of these new regiments, and the armoured divisions they were to join, had to be disbanded during 1942–43. Of the new regiments only the 45th and 46th Cavalry fulfilled their intended role, again with M3 Stuarts and from 1945 with M4 Shermans.

As well as the line regiments several purely ceremonial cavalry units existed in 1914, namely, the Governor-General's Body Guard and the separate Body Guards of the Governors of Madras, Bombay and Bengal (the latter raised only in 1912); there were, in addition, two smaller units, the Escort to the British Resident in Nepal (raised in 1908) and the Aden Troop, which performed similar duties in that colony.

The Willcox Committee recommended the disbandment of three cavalry regiments – the 3rd Cavalry, 19th King George V's Own Lancers and the Central India Horse. The first of these had not been re-formed after its men returned from Japanese captivity (the regiment had been captured in Malaya in 1941); the other two were the most junior of the cavalry regiments. However, the recommendations were ignored at Partition: the 3rd Cavalry, re-formed in 1946 as an airborne reconnaissance regiment, became part of the new Indian Army.

Artillery

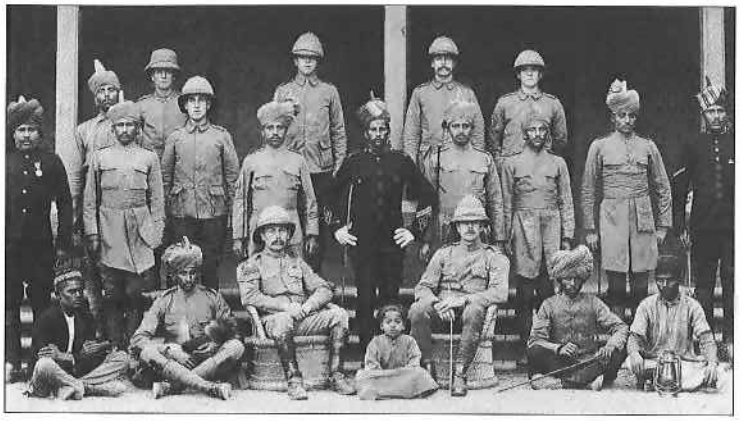
Another legacy of the Mutiny was an abiding fear of allowing Indians access to heavy weapons. It became a matter of dogma that no field artillery should ever lie in Indian hands. Thus, on the outbreak of war in 1914, the only artillery units to be found in the entire Indian Army were 12 batteries of mountain artillery equipped with six 10-pdr. guns, which broke down to be carried on mule-back. A further 15 batteries were raised during the First World War, of which six were disbanded in 1921. Mountain artillery units were officered by Britons seconded from the Royal Artillery, whilst the other ranks were Indian. As the number of vacancies within the mountain artillery was restricted, and because the batteries saw frequent active service, the competition to serve in one of

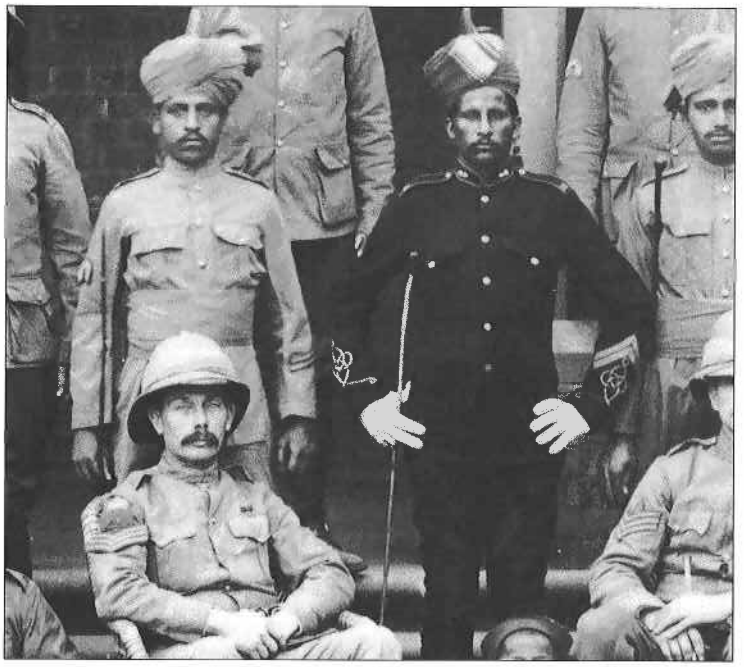
these units was fierce for both officers and men, and the mountain artillery acquired something of a reputation as a *corps d'élite*. In contrast to other arms-of-service potential artillery officers spent 16 months, instead of 12, with a British unit before being posted to their Indian battery.

Heavier weapons, even for those Indian divisions which served on the Western Front, had to be found and manned by the Royal Artillery. In 1914, 11 batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were stationed in India as well as 45 field batteries, six heavy batteries and eight mountain batteries, all belonging to the Royal Field Artillery and 22 companies of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

This policy of keeping field artillery out of Indian hands was eventually abandoned in the 1930s. In 1935, 'A' Field Brigade, the first Indian field regiment, was raised, partly from transfers from disbanded pioneer regiments. It consisted of four batteries, two equipped with 18-pdrs and two with 4.5 inch howitzers, all horse-drawn. Four years later, in August 1939, the Indian Artillery was created as a separate arm of the service.

During the Second World War the Artillery expanded rapidly, raising 66 regiments between 1939 and 1945; at the peak of its strength in 1943–44 it contained 64 regiments. All the field regiments were equipped with 25-pdrs from 1941 onwards, the first to be raised abandoning their horses in favour of the internal combustion engine at the same time. This increase in strength was helped by the transfer of 12 infantry battalions into the artillery to form newly created anti-tank and anti-aircraft regiments. Growth was particularly noticeable in the anti-aircraft branch. In 1939, only one British Heavy AA regiment was serving in India and not a single Light Regiment. In 1940, the first Indian HAA regiment was raised; by the end of 1945, 19 Heavy regiments and eight Light regiments had been created.





A group of British and Indian Artillery NCOs and men, wearing a mixture of full dress and service dress. Trade and good conduct badges in the Indian Army, as worn by the two farriers in the middle of the second row (see detail), tended to be similar to those in the British Army.

Sappers and Miners

In contrast to the Royal Artillery, units of the Royal Engineers did not, as a general rule, serve in India. Most engineering works, including the operation of military railways and signals, were carried out by corps of Sappers and Miners. In 1914, there were three such corps numbered

Second Lieutenant Roger Ekin wearing the full dress uniform of his regiment, 55th (Coke's) Rifles, in 1916. Ekin rose to command 5/13th Frontier Force Rifles in 1937, and was appointed to the command of 16th Brigade, 17th Indian Division in Burma in 1942. After a gallant defence of Moulmein the brigade was caught on the wrong side of the Sittang River when a vital bridge was blown; Brig Ekin escaped only by swimming across the river. He retired from the Indian Army at Partition, by which time he was GOC Bihar & Orissa Area. (Liddle Collection)

1st to 3rd: each was composed of a number of field companies, commanded by a captain assisted by a lieutenant and two or three European warrant officers or sergeants with four Indian officers and 202 other ranks. The British officers were on detached service from the Royal Engineers, whilst the warrant officers and sergeants came from one of three RE depots set up specifically to provide European NCOs for the Sappers and Miners. Indian personnel consisted of a *subedar*, a *jemadar* and about 150 NCOs and sappers in each company. Each company also had its own establishment of pack animals to carry its tools.

A fourth corps, the Burma Sappers and Miners, was created after the First World War, but was disbanded as an economy measure in 1929. Signals personnel were withdrawn to join the Signals Corps in 1920. Indianisation did not affect these units until 1931 when the training of KCIOs commenced at Chatham. Although they each retained their individual identities the three corps were made part of the Corps of Indian Engineers in 1932; from that time new officers were all graduates of Dehra Dun. The three corps were renamed Groups in 1942 (e.g. Queen Victoria's Own Madras Group) and the Corps of Engineers was made 'Royal' in 1946, as the Royal Indian Engineers.

One of the Engineers' best-known contributions to the military art was the Bangalore torpedo. This was a long tube filled with explosives, which was used for wire-cutting and other small demolition jobs where it was difficult to position the explosives in the normal way, particularly in the face of enemy fire. However, the Engineers' lasting legacy lay not merely in their military works, but in the thousands of miles of roads, railways, telecommunications networks and irrigation projects which they had planned and helped to build, which to this day form the basis of the sub-continent's infrastructure.

Pioneers

Simple field engineering work, particularly in hostile territory, was carried out by regiments of pioneers. Pioneer regiments were also trained to fight as infantry and so were ideal for work in such areas. Pioneers were not used by the British Army until the First World War when they were introduced at the instigation of Kitchener, by then Secretary for War, who as a Royal Engineer himself was well aware of their value. Unlike the Sappers each *sepoy* in a pioneer regiment carried a pickaxe or a light spade in special leather equipment, whilst NCOs and buglers carried axes, saws and billhooks. Only heavier equipment – shovels, explosives, etc. – was carried on mule-back. During the First World War the work of the pioneers was aided by the formation of an Indian Labour Corps – a corps which included, in a move that smacks of some desperation, seven 'jail companies' recruited from prisoners in civilian jails, which all served in Mesopotamia.

By the latter stages of the war these regiments had become more and more specialised and were considered too valuable to put into the firing line as assault battalions alongside the other infantry. This was recognised in the 1922 re-organisation, which took them out of the line altogether, forming them into four regiments – three made up of four battalions and one with a single battalion. The companies that composed these battalions operated independently in the field, and the distinctions between Pioneers and Sappers and Miners gradually became more and more blurred. In 1932, therefore, the pioneer regiments were disbanded and their personnel absorbed by the Sappers and Miners.

Detail from a photo of the band of the 83rd (Wallajahbad) Light Infantry, Mandalay, August 1916, with the Adjutant, Lt R.E. Greenhouse. The full dress uniform was scarlet with emerald green facings. This regiment, recruiting mostly among southern Indians, became 4 Bn/3rd Madras Regiment in 1922, but was disbanded the following year. (Liddle Collection)

With the outbreak of war in 1939, however, men were once again required to perform pioneer duties and in 1940 the Indian Labour Corps (from 1943, the Indian Pioneer Corps) was re-formed. The Corps was eventually to consist of some 400 companies, with 175,000 men and 1,500,000 civilian labourers, of whom about half were engaged on civil construction projects.

Infantry

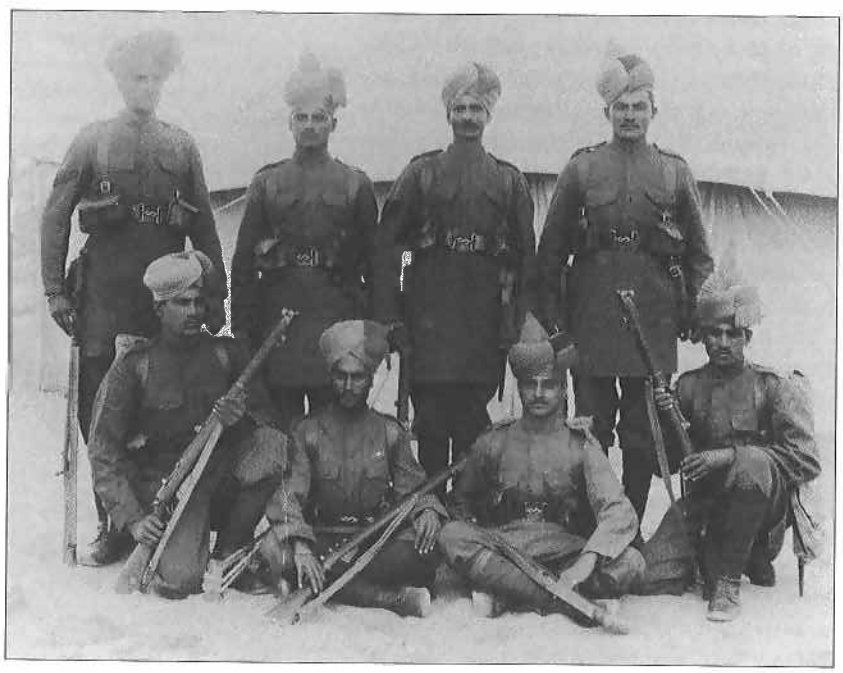
Most Indian infantry regiments, the Gurkhas apart, consisted of a single battalion. In 1914, each infantry battalion was composed of four double companies. Each of these was commanded by a British major or captain with another captain or subaltern as second-in-command; subalterns in training were frequently attached to the Company HQ. Each company also had a *subedar* and a *jemadar*, each of whom commanded a half-company of two sections. Every section comprised a *havildar* and 20 *sepoys*. The total strength was 13 British officers, 17 Indian officers and 723 NCOs and men – slightly weaker than a British battalion. The senior Indian officer of the regiment was the *subedar-major*; the rank was the theoretical equivalent of a British captain, but the individual authority of these men gave them a role and importance somewhat greater than that.

The double company system was abolished in 1916 (Indian Army Orders 341–1916 and 684–1916) and Indian battalions were brought into line with the British practice of four companies per battalion, each under a British commander and second-in-command. Each company now consisted of four platoons (two under a *subedar* and two under a *jemadar*, each assisted by a *havildar*); every platoon consisted of four sections of ten men under a *naik* or *lance-naik*. There was also a headquarters wing, which consisted of the specialist sections, including the band, signallers, machine gunners, cooks, drivers and craftsmen. The total embarkation strength of each regiment was raised to 1,030 all ranks.

Twenty-three new infantry regiments (49th, 50th, 70th, 71st, 85th, 111th, 131st–133rd, 140th–145th, 150th–156th, 11th Gurkhas) were formed by a variety of means between 1914 and 1918 – from new recruits, by drafts from existing regiments and by the incorporation of contingents from the police (131st–132nd) and Imperial Service states (140th–145th) into the line. In addition, 44 regiments raised a second battalion, four regiments (23rd, 30th, 39th and the Guides) each raised an extra two battalions, and one (9th) an extra three. All these battalions were disbanded during the period between 1919 and 1921. Further reinforcements came in 1916, in the form of eight battalions of the Nepalese Army, which served in India as garrison troops until 1918.

In 1929, each battalion's machine gun group, which consisted of two sections, was expanded to a company by adding two further sections and by taking over one of the rifle companies, which now became D (MG) Company and, in 1935, D (Support) Company. Further changes were made in December 1938 to bring battalions into line with British practice. The Machine Gun Company was reduced to a platoon within HQ Company, and D Company once more became a rifle company. At the same time, each company was now reduced to only three platoons of three sections each; and a new Support Company was created with a mortar platoon and a carrier platoon.

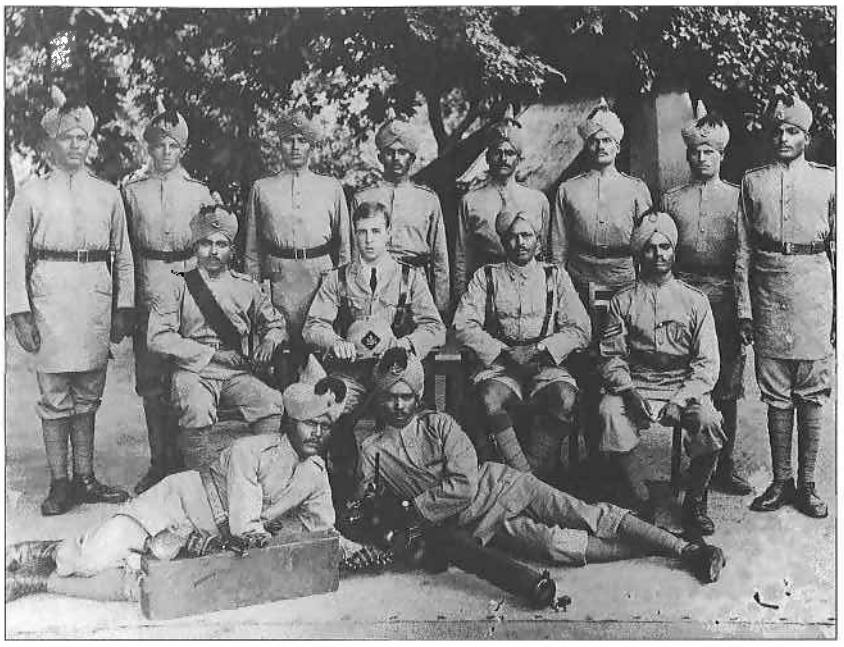
The machine gun platoons of British infantry battalions stationed in India were also manned by Indian personnel, who carried their weapons on mule back. When their British battalion was about to return home the Indian personnel were transferred to its replacement. Responsibility for training these Indian troops fell to a school set up under the auspices of the 10th Battalion, 17th Dogra Regiment. During the Second World War the following infantry regiments raised a machine gun battalion following British practice: 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, and 19th. Few saw any action in their intended role, however, and most were converted back to infantry or to a different arm-of-service altogether.



A group of *jawans* from 58th (Vaughan's) Rifles, Frontier Force, in 1918. In keeping with rifle regiment traditions the rank chevrons of the *havildar* (centre, back) and the *naik* (left, back) are black on a green backing. This group includes two men from each of the races recruited by the regiment – Punjabi Muslims, Sikhs, Dogras and Pathans. (Liddle Collection)

Despite plans to issue 15-cwt. trucks to each battalion many remained reliant on mules as battalion transport. Each battalion had around 80 animals, which carried its 3-inch mortars and ammunition, reserve small arms ammunition, entrenching tools and extra water; one was allocated to the battalion's medical officer and another to HQ. The 2-inch mortars which equipped every platoon had to be carried by their crews.

A further legacy of the Mutiny was Britain's refusal to provide Indian troops with up-to-date small arms; the weapons they carried tended to be at least one pattern behind the British. Even as late as 1911, at a time when British troops were armed with the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield, it was proposed that Indian troops should be equipped with a single-shot, non-magazine rifle. Thus, at the outbreak of the First World War, most Indian troops were armed with Lee-Metfords and long Lee-Enfields (although a small number of SMLEs had been issued from 1908). Such distinctions became impossible to sustain in the heat of battle and by 1918 most Indian troops had received the SMLE. The machine gun platoons, sometimes not formed until a regiment had left India, as in the case of the 30th Punjabis in 1916, were equipped with the Vickers. Later in the war (the skill-at-arms badge was not authorised until 1917), a Lewis gun was allocated to each platoon. When a replacement for the Lewis was sought in the 1930s the Indian Army opted to 'go it alone' whilst the British Army was still trying to come to a decision. The Indian choice fell on the Vickers-Berthier, which closely resembled the Bren gun, the eventual British selection, but which was lighter and less robust. The gun was to be manufactured in India at the Inshapore Factory near Calcutta. Production was, however, slow; by September 1939 not every regiment had received their full allocation of 12. During the Second World War battle losses were replaced by Brens, in effect phasing out the Vickers-Berthier.



The machine gun section of the 83rd Light Infantry at Secunderabad, July 1916, with Lt R.E.Greenhouse and Subedar Abdul Hussein. The men are Punjabi Christians. (Liddle Collection)

At the beginning of the Second World War, as at the outbreak of the First, the infantry arm was obliged to expand to meet the manpower needs of the conflict. The 3rd Madras Regiment, disbanded in 1928 as an economy measure, was re-raised; the Territorial battalions were incorporated into their respective regiments, and a number of regiments raised garrison battalions to free fit men for the front line. These measures were still insufficient. Rather than repeat the mistakes of the First World War, when a reluctance to look beyond the traditional 'martial races' led to over-recruitment in their home areas, the army now broadened its recruiting base and created new regiments from non-traditional sources. This resulted in the formation of the Bihar, the Assam, the Mahar, the Ajmer and the Chamar Regiments and of the Lingayat and Coorg Battalions. Some of these units were ineffective as infantry, but once they had been transferred to other arms-of-service many of the men were a success as soldiers – the experience of war again demonstrating the flawed nature of the whole 'martial race' theory.

In addition to this increase in the numbers of conventional infantry the army was also strengthened by the raising of the first Indian paratroops in 1941. These consisted of one Indian and one Gurkha Parachute Battalion, numbered 152nd and 153rd respectively, and 411th (Royal Bombay) Parachute Section, Indian Engineers. The men of the two parachute battalions were drawn from most of the army's infantry regiments. (There were two exceptions – firstly, Sikh regiments, since Sikhs were unable to wear the parachutist's helmet, and secondly, the 9th Gurkhas, who were recruited from high-caste Nepalese, and would not have been able to live and eat with men from other regiments.) These units, together with the British 151st Battalion, made up 50th Indian Parachute Brigade, part of a proposed Indian Airborne Division. The Indian and Gurkha battalions went on to form the nucleus of the Indian Parachute Regiment, created in March 1945, but this was disbanded later in the same year. Airborne battalions were found instead from existing infantry regiments; 11 battalions had been converted to their new role by the time of Partition. Although Indian paratroops took part in several ground actions, notably at Sangshak in March 1944, they never made an operational jump: plans for an Arnhem-style attack to recapture Singapore in the company of the British 6th Airborne Division were being developed when the war ended.

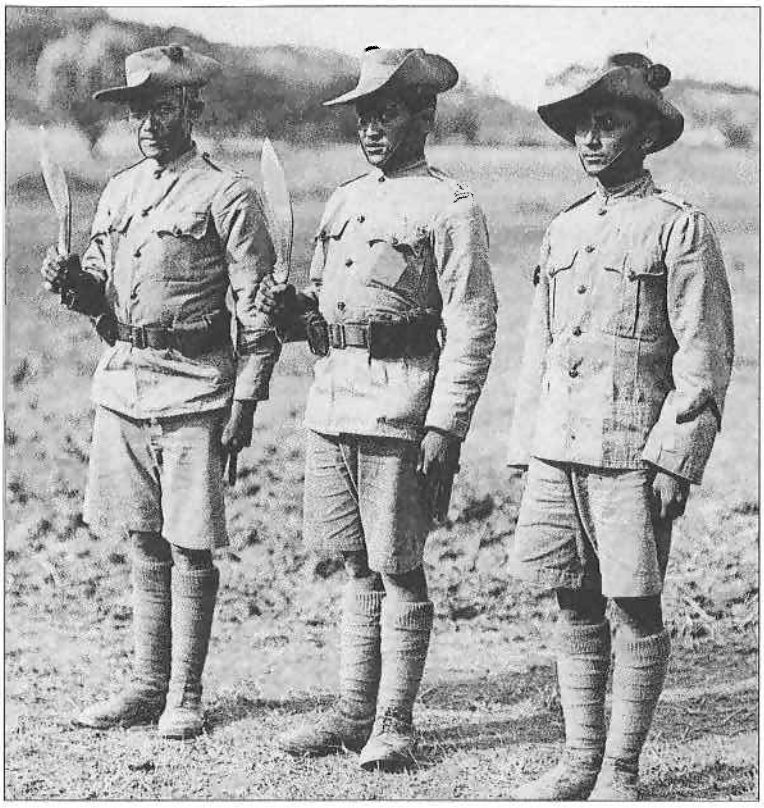
In 1946, as part of the recommendations of the Willcox Committee, all the infantry regiments, except for the six Punjab units (1st, 2nd, 8th, 14th–16th), lost their numbers; for example, the 3rd Madras Regiment became simply the Madras Regiment. The 4th Bombay Grenadiers not only lost their number, but also changed their title, the last vestige of the Presidency Armies, to became the Indian Grenadiers. A further proposal, to disband the 7th and 10th Gurkhas, was not acted upon.

Supporting Services

The Indian Army had developed a number of specialist corps during the 19th century, but these were ready only to support the kind of frontier warfare in which the army had thus far been engaged. The Supply and Transport Corps of 1914 was composed entirely of animal transport units: it was not until later in the First World War that mechanical transport companies made an appearance, and even then they were manned exclusively by British troops transferred from Territorial battalions, since no Indian (and few British regulars, for that matter) could possibly have received suitable training. During the same conflict the STC took over the supply of food, fodder and fuel, which individual regiments had previously been accustomed to finding for themselves. The Corps was renamed the Indian Army Service Corps after the war and was made 'Royal' in 1935. A mule transport unit of the RIASC was the first Indian Army unit to take the field in 1939 when it was sent to France (its members were evacuated in May 1940 and eventually returned to India). Later, the Corps shouldered much of the burden of delivering supplies to the beleaguered Russians through Persia.

The Farms Department was originally part of the Supply and Transport Corps, but was separated from its parent in 1912. Although its original responsibilities covered only grass (for fodder) and dairy produce, by the time of the Second World War these had been extended to include pigs, poultry, ducks and rabbits.

The medical corps had a complex ancestry and at one time medical duties were split between a number of different organisations. The Indian Medical Service was composed of British doctors, who were responsible for Indian soldiers and their British officers, as well as for British officials in government service and their families. A second corps, the Indian Medical Department, contained both Anglo-Indians (i.e. men of mixed race born in India of an English father), who were able to treat British or Indian troops, and Indian doctors who could treat only Indian troops. These were supplemented by the Army Hospital Corps (responsible for the administration of hospitals for British troops, and for male nurses) and the Army Bearer Corps (which provided stretcher bearers). Nurses, who only looked after British troops, were supplied by the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service for India. There was no permanent hospital service for Indians who, for the most part, were cared for at regimental level. Indeed, most regiments had an Indian Medical Officer by the start of the First World War, thus pre-dating Indianisation by some years. A number of changes were introduced in the aftermath of the First World War: the AHC and ABC were amalgamated in 1920 to form the Indian Hospital Corps; and six years later the Indian Troops Nursing Service (later renamed the Indian Military Nursing Service) was formed. During the Second World War the Medical Department, the Medical Service and the Hospital Corps were further amalgamated in 1943 to form the Indian Army Medical Corps. Dental officers were withdrawn to form their own corps from 1941.



Three *sathis* of the 8th Gurkhas show off their distinctive *kukris* for a French photographer during the Great War. Note the red pom-pon worn on the slouch hat – on the left by the regiment's 1st Battalion, and on the right by the 2nd. Since only the 1st Bn served in France, the soldier in the middle has presumably been transferred.

Given the large number of horses and other animals in the army it was only natural that Remount and Veterinary Services should be established at an early stage. Country-bred horses (that is, those bred in India) had a small physique, and were only deemed suitable for Indian cavalry. *Silladar* regiments provided their own horses, bred from Gulf or Bedouin Arab stock, and frequently maintained their own stud farms. For example, that of Probyn's Horse (12th Cavalry in 1903), which was situated, appropriately enough, at Probynabad (founded in 1864 near Bannu, North-West Frontier Province), had long enjoyed a fine reputation for the excellence of its mounts. However, the artillery and the British cavalry regiments stationed in India needed more robust animals. They used Australian horses known as 'Walers' after the state of New South Wales, where many of them had been raised. The principal concern of the Remount Department was, therefore, to provide animals,

A regiment marches past, headed by its pipes and drums. Although bagpipes were played in some Sikh regiments c.1880, it was not until the final decade of the century that many of the Indian Army's pipe bands were formed. Some regiments went as far as to adopt tartan. This regiment has not, although its instruments have pipe banners.

both riding and draft, to meet the needs of the transport service and the non-*silladar* cavalry regiments as well as the British Army in India. By 1914, the Remount Department had to maintain a peace-time establishment of over 20,000 horses and 6,000 mules. A war reserve was kept up, but this was at the disastrously low level of 500 cavalry horses, 500 artillery horses and 200 mules. No arrangements were in place to allow for any major expansion on mobilisation, and the Department was badly caught out by the unprecedented casualties.

The Indian Army Veterinary Corps was not formed until 1920 since the *silladar* system required cavalry regiments to look after their own animals and maintain their own veterinary officer (*salutri*). Transport units had also been responsible for their own animals, whether these be horses, mules, camels, bullocks or even elephants. The two departments were amalgamated in 1947, only a few months before Partition.

Before the First World War the responsibilities of the Ordnance Department were restricted to the supply of arms, ammunition and some equipment, whilst individual regiments took charge of obtaining much of their own clothing and food. The Department was officered by British officers detached from the Royal Artillery. It controlled a number of factories and arsenals, but their output was sufficient only to meet peacetime needs; during the First World War, Britain had to take up the slack and supply the extra matériel required. The breakdown of the *silladar* system under the pressure exerted by the war forced a re-appraisal of existing arrangements. The Indian Army Ordnance Corps was formed in 1922 to ensure the centralised provision of matériel and to furnish troops with all their arms, equipment, clothing and boots. A number of officers and men from the Ordnance Corps, as well as detachments from the Engineers and RIASC, were transferred out in May 1943 to form the Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The formation of the Indian Signals Corps in April 1920 pre-dated that of the Royal Corps of Signals, its British equivalent, by nearly three

months. Signals companies had previously been part of the Sappers and Miners. The strength of each company was set at five British officers, two Indian officers, and 44 British and 86 Indian other ranks, including eight men under training. Signals companies were attached to each Divisional HQ. The British officers and men remained part of the Corps until 1926, when they were transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals; subsequently all British personnel were on attachment.

The Indian Corps of Clerks was established in 1924 to perform a variety of administrative tasks and consisted of British soldiers and Indian civilians. Militarisation, to bring the civilian clerks under army discipline, was introduced only in 1942, when the corps was renamed the Indian Army Corps of Clerks.

Under normal circumstances provost duties were the responsibility of British NCOs from the Corps of Military Police. Indian troops were subject only to their own regimental police. Even so, the Corps of Military Police (India) was formed in 1942, possibly to deal with the increasing size of the army in India and to administer prisoner-of-war camps; units contained both British and Indian personnel.

Given the place of women in Indian society and the restrictions placed on their activities by faith or caste, raising a women's corps proved problematic. By 1945, the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) consisted of some 1,160 officers and 8,900 other ranks, but it was recruited largely from Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians, with few participants from non-Christian faiths. Corps members were employed in clerical duties in administrative headquarters and on cipher and signals duties in rear areas. Some personnel also served with the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Indian Air Force.

Allah Jawaya, who had been a mess servant of the 26th Punjabis and their successors the 2/15th Punjabis for a total of 32 years, photographed at Jhelum in 1925. He is wearing regimental *mufti*, with a belt and *pagri* strip in the regimental colours, and on the front of his *pagri* the 26th's brass shoulder title. (Liddle Collection)

Followers

Every unit, no matter what the arm-of-service, had its own followers, that is men who earned a living by performing menial tasks around the camp or station. Into this category fell water carriers (*bhistis*), cooks (*langris*), sweepers and latrine cleaners (*mehtahs*), tailors (*darzis*), cobblers (*mochis*) and grooms (*syces*). Despite the heroic deeds of Kipling's Gunga Din, who was a *bhisti*, followers were not usually considered as combatant troops; exceptions were made only for drivers (*drabis*) and stretcher bearers (*kahars*), who were elevated to combatant status during the First World War and thus became eligible for decorations. Whilst followers did not usually wear uniform, in some regiments (e.g. 2nd Gurkhas) they did wear a special badge.

The Armies of the Princes

By no means all of India was ruled directly by the British. A large proportion of the sub-continent was governed by native princes who were permitted to retain a certain amount of autonomy. In each state, however, no matter how large or how small, their apparent independence was

The young Lt Ogilvie Bennett in the full dress uniform of the Khyber Rifles, 1913. Bennett, universally known as 'OD', was born in 1885 and joined the 26th Punjabis in 1906. His father and his brother – known as 'AD' – were also in the Indian Army. Long traditions of service, often in the same regiments, were common among the British families who officered the Indian Army over a century and more. (Liddle Collection)

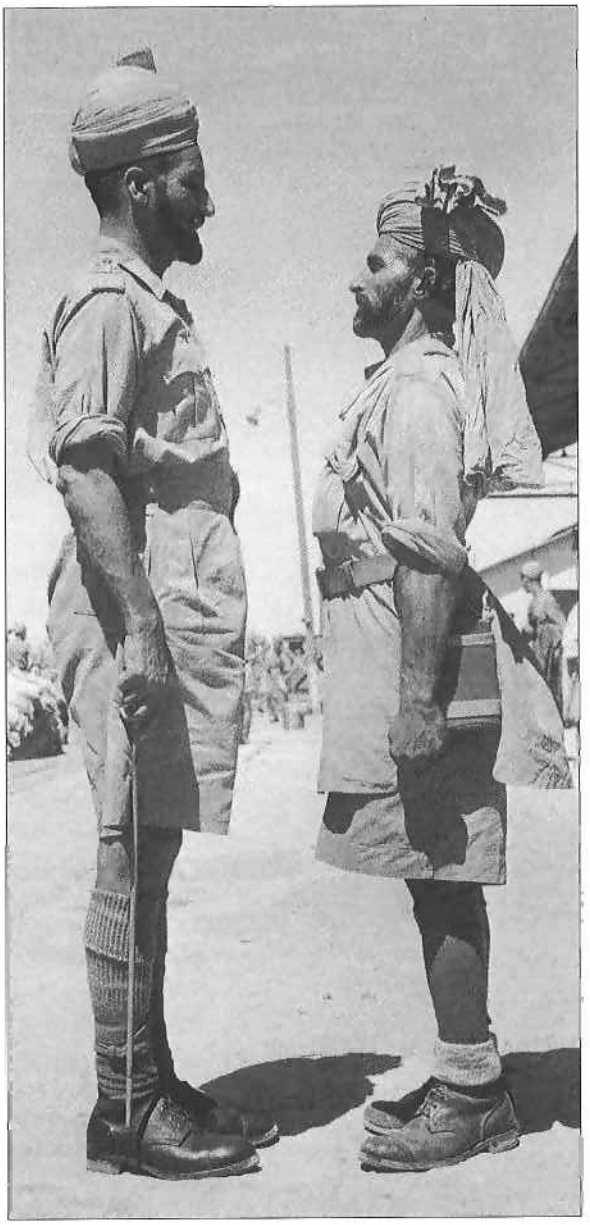
curtailed by a British resident whose role was to make sure that the policies of the ruler accorded with British intentions. Many of these princes maintained some sort of military establishment, which varied greatly in size, equipment and training. In 1885, some of them offered to make their forces available to the British to combat the perceived Russian threat to India. This was the precursor of a more formal scheme, which saw the Government of India agree to contribute to the equipment of these princely contingents, to be known as Imperial Service Troops, and to supervise their training to ensure that they reached a sufficiently high standard of competence. Under this scheme princely contingents participated in a number of campaigns on the North-West Frontier and in China. Selected young noblemen were also enrolled into the Imperial Cadet Corps in an attempt to create a body of competent officers for service with the States Forces, but results were not encouraging and the idea did not survive the First World War.

By 1914, some 29 states were involved providing a strength of some 22,479 men formed into two mountain batteries, four companies of sappers, 15 cavalry units, three camel corps, 13 infantry battalions and seven transport corps. Imperial Service troops served on many of the fronts during the First World War. In Palestine a brigade was formed from the cavalry regiments of Hyderabad, Mysore and Patiala; it was the Jodhpur Lancers who captured Haifa and the famous Bikanir Camel Corps also made a notable contribution. Contingents from Kashmir and Gwalior formed part of an Imperial Service Brigade which was badly beaten whilst landing at Tanga in German East Africa. They were forced to withdraw on that occasion, but they and several more Imperial Service units continued in the theatre until the end of the conflict. Two units of sappers earned particular praise for their work – the Faridkot Sappers in East Africa and the Sirmoor Sappers in Mesopotamia. All the transport units performed valuable work, particularly in Mesopotamia, where supply was so difficult.

During the inter-war period some re-organisation was felt to be necessary. From 1932, three types of unit were envisaged. Firstly, the government undertook to arm and equip a number of units, to be styled Field Service Units, which would be available to the Crown under any circumstances and would be organised and equipped as regular Indian Army units. They would be backed up by General Service Units, which would be armed and equipped by the States, but would be brought up to the establishment of Field Service Units at the government's own expense as and when their services were required. A third category consisted of 'militia' units, not permanently embodied and with lower scales of arms and equipment, who would serve solely as internal security units. In 1939, all units less than a squadron/company/battery in strength were excluded from the scheme. The formation of modern field artillery units within Imperial Service states was discouraged as was the case in the Indian Army; only one exception was permitted and that was Jammu and Kashmir, which

was allowed to form an artillery unit because it possessed an international frontier.

When tested in the conditions of the Second World War, however, the revised scheme proved a less than resounding success. Many of the Field Service Units remained under-trained and under-officered – faults that could only be put right at the expense of the Indian Army. The creation of a Cadet School for States' officers to attend before they went to Officer Training School went some way to remedying one of these defects, producing a supply of well-trained officers. Fewer units served outside India than in 1914; unfortunately, many of those that did so were sent to what was thought to be a quiet sector, Malaya, where they were captured by the Japanese. The remaining units served largely as lines of communications troops or as garrisons. These included 34th Infantry Brigade, composed entirely of States' Forces, which served in Abyssinia in 1941. In 1945 a second brigade (150th) was re-formed from a training brigade to include three States' battalions and served as the garrison of Hong Kong. A Jammu and Kashmir contingent served in Burma in the Meiktila campaign; and the 1st Akal Infantry, from the Punjabi state of Nabha, saw action in Italy with the 10th Infantry Division. Three State battalions also formed part of Force 281 engaged in the recapture of the Dodecanese Islands in 1944. Incredibly, detachments from two States regiments, the Jodhpur Lancers and the 3rd Maharaja Madho Rao Scindia's Own Lancers from Gwalior, took part in the last mounted action undertaken by Commonwealth troops when, in February 1944, armed with lances, they charged Japanese attackers during the battle of the Nagakyedauk Box in the Arakan.



A *sepoy* of the 1st Afridi Bn receives some friendly words of advice from the *subedar-major* at Port Tewfik, Egypt. The regiment moved to Syria for training as a Commando unit, but resumed its role as conventional infantry in 1943. Reborn as the Khyber Rifles, the regiment is now part of the Pakistan Army. (IWM E14177)

Mindful of the defects that had become apparent in the regiments of the Princely States during the Second World War, the Willcox Committee called for drastic reductions in their number, relegating those that remained to internal security duties only. No action, however, had been taken before Partition intervened. At Partition the armies of the princes were incorporated into the new armies of India or Pakistan. No problems were experienced except in three cases. The first, and most serious in the long term, was that of Jammu and Kashmir, when a Hindu ruler opted to join India against the wishes of the largely Muslim population, which would have preferred to become part of Pakistan. Notoriously, this territory is still in dispute between the two countries. In Junagadh and particularly in Hyderabad, which had Muslim rulers but largely Hindu populations, some force was needed before the disturbances could be quelled and peace established.

The Auxiliary Force (India)

At the time of the Mutiny of 1857 a considerable number of European units had been formed for purposes of self-defence, and many of these continued in existence for some time after it had been suppressed. By the 1890s a number of these had been disbanded due to lack of interest, but the insularity of the English community ensured that many were still active, trained with the help of an adjutant and instructors seconded from the British Army. In response to declining numbers many units, particularly those raised from railway employees, began to recruit Anglo-Indians and most became in time solidly Anglo-Indian. There were, however, some exceptions – the cavalry units, the Calcutta Scottish, the Bengal Artillery and the Calcutta Fortress Company RE continued to recruit exclusively amongst Europeans, whilst the units raised in Karachi maintained a roughly 50-50 composition. By 1907 some 34,000 men were serving in these units, known collectively as the Indian Volunteer Force.

The Volunteer Force provided a ready pool of officers at the outbreak of war in 1914 and many were posted away to regular Indian Army regiments. However, none of the volunteer regiments themselves were sent to the Front – all units were retained in India to be deployed on internal security duties. In 1917 they became part of a new umbrella organisation, the Indian Defence Force, with compulsory service for all Europeans between the ages of 18 and 41. The new force consisted of ten regiments of cavalry (named either Light Horse or Mounted Rifles); 45 units of infantry, ranging in size from a company to a battalion, as well as five artillery units and two engineer units.

The Defence Force as an organisation was disbanded at the end of the war, but the idea of some kind of volunteer force remained active. In 1920, the volunteers were incorporated into the Auxiliary Force (India) and extra units of artillery and engineers were raised. Members were liable for call-out for local service on internal security duties. These were largely static guard duties; confronting riots was left to the British Army. During the 1930s and 1940s, when units were called out for duty,

Officers of the 1st Tripura Rifles, Indian States Forces, in the Arakan, 1944. The regiment was employed on lines of communication duties; the white paddy-bird shoulder patch of 404th (East Bengal) L of C Area is just visible (rear, third from right; and front, right). Tripura was a state near the Burmese border, and its regiments were uniformed as Gurkhas. (IWM IND4116)

it was rare for all the men of one unit to serve together since many volunteers worked on the railway or in other essential occupations.

During the Second World War the AF(I) once more functioned as a reserve for officers. But members of two AF(I) units, the Calcutta Light Horse and the Calcutta Scottish, did see active service in March 1943. They boarded some German ships in the harbour of the Portuguese colony of Goa and eliminated their spying capability – an exploit which later became the basis for a novel by James Leasor and a feature film, *The Sea Wolves.*

All the Auxiliary Force regiments were disbanded on Partition.

Frontier Corps

The end of the 19th century saw a transformation in British ideas concerning the day-to-day security of the North-West Frontier. Rather than maintain a large garrison of regular troops it was decided to raise a number of tribal levy units, serving under their own tribal chiefs, each with an attached British officer. The role of these levies was made more important by the policies of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India between 1899 and 1905, who withdrew Imperial forces even further from the line of the frontier itself so as to allow them to be concentrated quickly in the face of a Russian attack. By 1914, a number of units had been raised: the Khyber Rifles, the North and South Waziristan Militias, the Kurram Militia, the Chitral Scouts, the Gilgit Scouts and the Zhob Militia – and between them they covered the whole of the frontier. Control of these units rested in the hands of the Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province and his Political Agents; they came under the direct control of the army only when serving in joint operations.

After the First World War, many of these units were involved in the Third Afghan War. Fellow tribesmen and co-religionists found themselves on opposing sides in the conflict, and disaffection was particularly strong amongst the men of the Khyber Rifles and the South Waziristan Militia. Both units were disbanded, although the Militia was then re-formed as two units, the Tochi Scouts and the South Waziristan Scouts. Yet, despite this problem, the operations undertaken by these poachers-turned-gamekeepers, whether acting alone or accompanying a Frontier Column, were in general most effective. All the surviving units remained active in Frontier operations until Partition. The strength of these units depended on the area they covered. During the 1920s the Tochi Scouts were organised into a headquarters company, two troops of mounted infantry and two infantry wings, each about a battalion strong, a total of 12 British officers and 2,278 men. The South Waziristan Scouts were stronger, containing three such wings. Each corps was commanded by a major, the wings by a captain, a company by a *subedar* and a platoon or troop by a *jemadar.* In contrast, the Gilgit and Chitral Scouts were both smaller in size, about 600 men each; the Gilgits were divided into ten platoons and the Chitrals into four companies. In all these regiments the mounted infantry troops remained as *silladar* units until 1928 since ownership of a horse was a real incentive to enlistment. However, it was eventually realised that it was both easier, and better for the horses, if the government were to maintain the animals, and the system was dropped.

On the North-East Frontier five battalions were raised to play a similar role. These were made up of the Assam Rifles, the Eastern

Bengal Rifles and the Malabar Special Police Battalion. During the Second World War a cadre from the Assam Rifles became the nucleus of the Indian Army's Assam Regiment.

At Partition all the North-West Frontier units went to Pakistan, where they have since been augmented by other para-military gendarmerie units. The Assam Rifles were allocated to India.

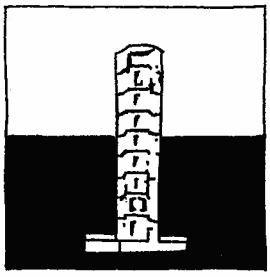
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Indian formations appear in the British Official Histories of both World Wars and, of course, in the joint Indian–Pakistani Official History of the Second World War. Recent general histories include Shankhar Bhaduri's *The Indian Army* (New Delhi, 1990) and *The Indian Army and the King's Enemies, 1900–1947* by Charles Chevenix-Trench (London, 1988). The official trilogy covering the African and Mediterranean theatres during the Second World War – *The Tiger Strikes*, *The Tiger Kills* and *The Tiger Triumphs* (all Calcutta, 1942, 1944 and 1945 respectively) is unsurprisingly uncritical. Philip Mason's *A Matter of Honour* (London, 1974) is essential reading for the social history of the Indian Army. John Gaylor's valuable *Sons of John Company* (Tunbridge Wells, 1992) includes potted regimental histories for the present century, and much else besides. David Omissi's books, *The Sepoy and the Raj* (London, 1994) and *Indian Voices of the Great War* (London, 1999) have shed a valuable historian's eye on the Indian Corps in France. Regimental histories abound, though varying in quality, and are best approached through Roger Perkins' monumental *Regiments: Regiments of the British Empire and Commonwealth, 1758–1993* (the author, Newton Abbot, 1994).

Of the three engagements featured in this book, the principal accounts can be found in: *Armageddon 1918* by Cyril Falls (London, 1964), *The Frontier Scouts* by Charles Chevenix-Trench (London, 1985), and *Burma: the Longest War, 1941–45* by Louis Allen (London, 1984).

On uniforms, both Boris Mollo's *The Indian Army* (Poole, 1981) and W.Y. Carman's two-volume *Indian Army Uniforms* (London, 1968–69) cover a period of two centuries, and therefore devote relatively little space to the more utilitarian aspects of 20th-century service dress. They nevertheless constitute the starting point for any serious study of Indian Army uniforms. *Durbar*, the journal of the Indian Military Historical Society, contains much valuable material, particularly on Indian States' Forces.

Badges of some Indian States Forces. The badge of Jodhpur (left) was a yellow eagle on brown. That of Faridkot (centre) was a white *chakkar* edged quoit interlaced with a *khanda* double-edged sword on a green background. The badge of Udaipur/Mewar – (right) was a representation of the 15th-century Tower of Victory at Chitogarh Fort, on a blue-over-red square. Although such badges have been attributed to many states in official sources, they do not appear to have been worn on uniforms; their use was probably restricted to letterheads, noticeboards, vehicles, etc.



THE PLATES

Researched and described by Mike Chappell

Indian Army uniforms of the period under review underwent great changes, brought about by the exigencies of the campaigns and battles of two World Wars and the disappearance of the horse from military service. Full dress was put aside in 1915, never to be fully restored; and khaki – a colour devised in India the previous century – became universal until, from 1942, uniforms of olive green were taken into use.

The religion and caste of Indians was often apparent in their dress, but by 1914 these distinctions within the Indian Army were confined mostly to headdress. The turban (*pagri* or *lungi*) could be bound – directly around the head, or around a pointed cap, the *khulla* – in a bewildering variety of styles according to the wearer's religion, race or caste. Gurkhas and Burma Rifles wore a slouch hat, and Madrassi sappers a fez-like hat called a *doopta*. With the advent of the steel helmet not all chose its protection; Sikhs, especially, preferred to maintain the turban wound around their uncut hair.

The Indian sepoy of 1914 presented a distinctive appearance, with his *kurta* (a shirt-like blouse reaching almost to the knees), baggy knickerbocker breeches and puttees; but by 1947 he looked no different from his British comrade in arms when in the field.

A: FULL DRESS, 1914

A1: Sowar, 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry

This mounted trooper demonstrates the 'review order' uniform of his regiment. Note his red *cummerbund* (waist sash), Sam Browne equipment, shoulder titles, good conduct badge (chevron), and skill-at-arms badge for proficiency with the sword. He is armed with sabre and lance.

A group of Frontier Force *jawans* off duty in France, 1914. Most regiments had adopted a regimental pattern of *mufti* for off-duty wear, but it does not appear to have been enforced strictly on active service.

Detail from a group of the Army Bearer Corps, c.1910, with what appears to be an Indian or Anglo-Indian officer. The men wear a pair of cloth shoulder titles bearing the letters 'A.B.C.', dark on a light background, while the NCOs wear their stripes on the front of their pagris. Cf Plate E2.

A2: Sepoy, 101st Grenadiers

This infantry private wears the *kurta* and *cummerbund* with his *pagri* wound around a *khulla* cap. Note the grenade badge worn on the latter; also his shoulder titles, good conduct badges denoting long service, and musketry skill-at-arms badge. His campaign medals show that he has served extensively in Africa. He is armed with a .303in Lee-Enfield rifle Mk I (India Pattern) and bayonet, and his equipment is from the 1903 pattern bandolier set. Tracing their origins back to the 18th century, the 101st claimed to be the oldest regiment of grenadiers in British service.

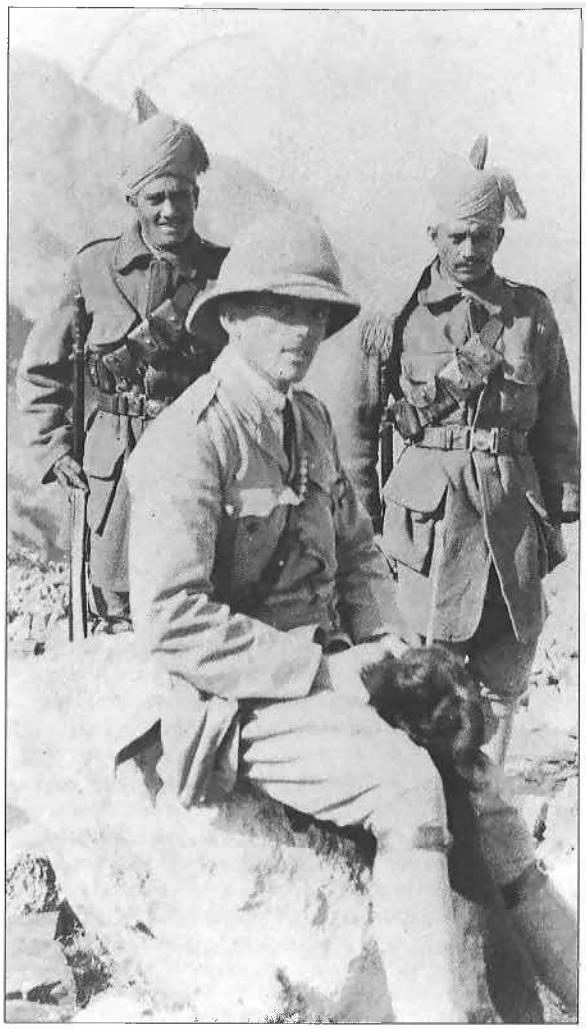
B: THE WESTERN FRONT, 1914–15

B1: Lieutenant, 2/15th Ludhiana Sikhs

This unit was among the first Indian troops to land in France in 1914; one of their British officers was Lt 'Jackie' Smyth, who won the Victoria Cross on 18 May 1915 at the battle of Festubert. Lieutenant Smyth is shown here in the drab serge service dress worn at this time, his only insignia a regimental cap badge and his badges of rank. He carries a .455in Webley revolver, ammunition and binoculars on his Sam Browne belt, and a 'P' anti-gas helmet in a haversack.

B2: Sepoy, 129th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis

The first Indian winner of the Victoria Cross was Sepoy Khudadad Khan of the 129th Baluchis. On 31 October 1914, at Hollebeke, Belgium, he kept his machine gun in action although wounded, and with the rest of his detachment lying dead around him; he later escaped after destroying his gun. Khudadad Khan is depicted in the khaki drill uniform worn until December 1914; his equipment is the 1903 pattern bandolier type, and he carries a .303in Maxim machine gun. The 129th Baluchis traced their origins back to units of marines, one of which fought in an action with a United States warship a century before.



Lieutenant O.D. Bennett of the Khyber Rifles photographed with his armed escort on the North-West Frontier in August 1914. The men of the escort appear to be wearing tunics several sizes too large, whereas Bennett has elected to remain rather conspicuous in his British officer's uniform. Ogilvie Bennett volunteered to join this new unit in February 1912, and spent one four-year tour with them, fighting in two campaigns against the Mohmands in 1915 before returning to the 26th Punjabis. (Liddle Collection)

B3: Rifleman, 1/39th Garwhal Rifles

This Garwhali soldier, recruited from a people who were near neighbours of the Gurkhas in the foothills of the Himalayas, is depicted in 1915 wearing standard British service dress but with a regimental slouch hat. His equipment is the modified 1903 pattern bandolier type; his weapons are the .303in SMLE Mk III and bayonet, and the *kukri* knife. Note his good conduct badges, rifle skill-at-arms badge, and the hat patch of the 1st Bn – other battalions wore this in different colours. Originally enlisted into the Gurkha regiments from 1815, the Garwhalis were formed into a regiment of their own in 1891.

C: THE WESTERN FRONT, 1914–18

C1: Sowar, 20th Deccan Horse

This trooper wears mounted marching order in 1916. Note that by this time most cavalrymen were wearing the British steel helmet, and that a *kurta* in drab serge had been issued. His only insignia is a shoulder title 'XDHX'. Most of his clothing, equipment and saddlery are of British origin except for his haversack, waterbottle, and the fringe on his mount's browband. He is armed with a .303in SMLE Mk III and bayonet, sword and lance; he also carries the anti-gas equipment of the time in two small haversacks.

C2: Dafadar, 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse

The standing cavalry sergeant is depicted wearing the drab serge *kurta, pagri,* breeches and *puttees*. His equipment includes a bandolier and pouches for 140 rounds, 'P' and 'PH' anti-gas helmets, waterbottle, haversack and entrenching tool, and he is armed with an SMLE and bayonet. Note his badges of rank, and his ornate shoulder title featuring crossed swords, a severed right hand, and the scrolled legend 'POONA HORSE'. The hand motif, thought to date from the 11th century, came from a Persian regimental standard captured in battle in 1857; in silver, it topped the regiment's standard staff and was inscribed 'The Hand of God above all things'.

Transferred to the Middle East, both these regiments would serve at Meggido in 1918 with the 14th Cavalry Brigade of the 5th Cavalry Division.

D: THE MIDDLE EAST, 1914–18

D1: Lance-dafadar, Mysore Lancers

Both the units depicted on this plate served at Meggido with the 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade of the 5th Cavalry Division. This corporal in mounted marching order wears a *pagri* and *khulla, kurta,* breeches, *puttees* and a khaki drill *cummerbund*. His equipment is a mixture of Sam Browne and bandolier items and includes a haversack and waterbottle. His saddlery is the standard British equipment of the time and includes a 90-round bandolier around the horse's neck. Items distinctive to the Mysore Lancers are the black headcollar rope, the black and white lance pennant, and the crossed lances badges on his chain mail epaulettes. Additionally to his lance he is armed with the SMLE Mk III, bayonet and sabre.

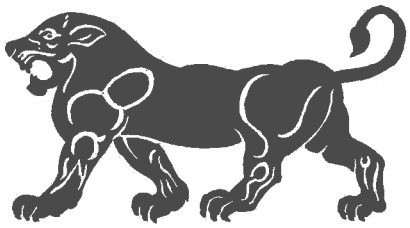
D2: Dafadar, 1st Jodhpur Lancers

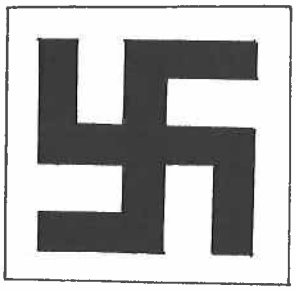
The dismounted sergeant wears khaki drill but departs from the 'regulation' with a green *pagri*, salmon-coloured *cummerbund*, a *tulwar* sabre, and leather leggings in place of *puttees*. Note his shoulder titles, signals qualification badge and arm badge, the last two on scarlet patches. His 'overseas service stripes' denote war service from 1914; and he displays the ribbons of the Indian Distinguished Service Medal and the 1914 Star.

E: THE MIDDLE EAST, 1914–18

E1: Major, Indian Medical Service

This major wears the standard khaki drill service dress of a British officer with pith helmet, Sam Browne belt and field boots. His branch is indicated by his cherry red gorget patches and the 'IMS' shoulder titles worn beneath his badges of rank. His medal ribbons indicate service in South Africa and on the North-West Frontier.





E2: Stretcher-bearer, Army Bearer Corps

Carrying a waterbottle, 'PH' anti-gas helmet and folding stretcher, he wears the 'A.B.C.' title of his corps on his *pagri*, and a red cross brassard on the sleeve of his *kurta*. Other insignia include good conduct badges for more than 12 years' service, two wound stripes, and the ribbons of the Indian General Service Medal and the 1914 Star.

E3: Naik, 107th Pioneers

This corporal is shown in marching order, carrying a cased mattock in addition to his rifle; his equipment is a mixture of bandolier and earlier India Pattern items. Note his *khulla*, *pagri* and badge. Pioneer battalions of the Indian Army at this date could function as both infantry or field engineers.

F: BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS

F1: Dafadar, Governor-General's Body Guard

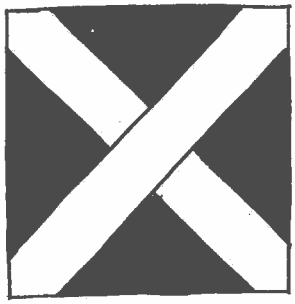
Full dress was restored to some units at this time, particularly to those involved in ceremonial; unsurprisingly, one such was the Governor-General's Body Guard. The bodyguards of India trace their origins to the mid-18th century and have a long and distinguished history. This NCO wears medals including the Indian Distinguished Service Medal and those for active service in the Great War. He is armed with the India Pattern 1908 sword.

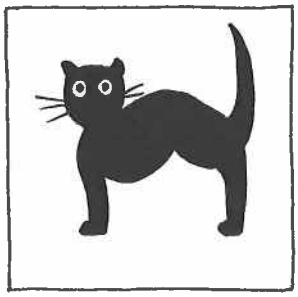
F2: Trumpeter, Royal Deccan Horse (9th Horse)

This trumpeter presents a very different appearance from his predecessor, Plate C1. This unit was the only Indian cavalry regiment to be dressed in 'rifle green', a colour which also forms the ground of his trumpet banner, which

ABOVE **Badges of some Indian formations during the First World War. Unlike the British Army on the Western Front, Indian Army formations seldom wore these signs on their uniforms; they were used principally on vehicles, noticeboards, etc. The 14th Indian Division (left) adopted their badge of a woodcock in late 1917, when they were serving in an area north of Baghdad where the bird was common. 1st Indian Corps (centre) served in Mesopotamia; it consisted originally of 3rd and 7th Indian Divisions, but by the time this badge was adopted these had been replaced by the 17th and 18th Divisions. The Aryan sun symbol (right) was used by two formations: 6th Cavalry Brigade used a white swastika on green, while Euphrates Defences changed the colours to black on light blue. Obviously, this long pre-dated the use of this ancient symbol by the German Nazi party, which has tainted it ever since.**

BELOW **Formation signs of some Indian infantry divisions during the Second World War. As first designed in 1942 these were a set of simple geometric shapes in blue and red, but they were soon replaced by more distinctive badges. The direction of the golden arrow on a black square of 7th Indian Division (left) originally symbolised the division's station on the North-West Frontier. The sign of 10th Division was a black square crossed by a saltire of red (bottom left to top right) over blue. That of 17th Division was a black cat on a khaki square. See also Plates H2 (4th Division), I1 (11th Division), and J1 (19th Division). Other signs included a red disc on a black rectangle (5th Division); a white hand brandishing a *tulwar* sword on a black rectangle (20th Division); a red cockerel on a yellow disc (23rd Division); and a black 'spade' on a green square (25th Division).**





The new and old uniforms, 1944. The *naik* (left) wears the khaki drill shirt and shorts; note his GHQ India shoulder patch – a yellow star on a rectangle halved red over blue – above his two white rank chevrons. The older soldier (right) wears the new 1943 jungle green battledress uniform, complete with the unloved and unlovely Cap, GS, which was to be issued to all regiments except Sikhs. The Gurkhas wore their slouch hats whenever possible, but eventually had to accept the GS cap for front line wear. (IWM IND3303)

bears the regimental crest and 11 battle honours for the Great War.

He displays good conduct badges, a musketry skill-at-arms badge and Great War medals.

G: BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS

G1: Muleteer, British Royal Artillery

The Indian Army fought many minor wars between 1918 and 1939. Warfare in mountainous regions often called for support from the Indian mountain artillery who operated the famous 'screw gun' pack howitzers. Within British RA mountain batteries the handling of mules was carried out by Indian personnel; our figure shows one of these Indian muleteers on the Frontier in c.1937; on the pack saddle of his mule is part of the barrel of a 3.7in pack howitzer. He is armed with the mountain artillery sword. Note his *pagri*, 'RA' shoulder titles, battery flash, and good conduct chevrons for over 18 years' service; his medal ribbons denote active service in the Great War and on the North-West Frontier, and long service.

G2: Lance-naik, 1/6th Rajputana Rifles

This *sepoy* is shown in typical training dress, c.1938; by now the shirt, shorts and pullover of the British soldier in India had been adopted. Note his *khulla, pagri* and badge, '6RR' shoulder titles and badge of rank, backed scarlet – the colour of his garter flashes. He wears 1908 pattern webbing equipment 'musketry order', and carries a .303in Vickers-Berthier Mk III light machine gun and magazine pouches.

G3: Naik, 5/13th Frontier Force Rifles

This NCO wears the 'hot weather service dress' of the 1930s. His leather is all black, and includes 1903 pattern equipment, *chaplis* (sandals) and rifle sling (the weapon is the .303in SMLE Mk III but now renamed the 'No.1 Rifle'). Rifle green *puttees, cummerbund* and *pagri* panel are further rifle regiment affectations; and note the scarlet backing to his shoulder titles and badges of rank. His ribbons are those of the Indian General Service Medals of 1908 and 1936.

H: THE MIDDLE EAST, 1939–45

H1: Sepoy, 4th Indian Division; Libya, c1941

The three figures on this plate represent the variety of uniforms worn by soldiers of the Indian Army in this theatre of war. This private soldier of an infantry battalion of the 4th Indian Division is depicted in the khaki drill shirt and shorts worn in hot climates. As a Sikh he retains his hair and beard uncut, and he wears his *pagri* folded in the fashion appropriate to his religion. Otherwise his dress differs not at all from that worn by other British troops in Libya. His webbing equipment is the 1937 pattern 'battle order'; and he is armed with a .55in Boys anti-tank rifle, one of which was carried in infantry platoon headquarters.

H2: Subedar, 1/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles; Tunisia, 1943

In more temperate regions wool serge battledress was worn, as here by Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa, VC. This first lieutenant won the supreme decoration for valour on 6 April 1943; in the course of this action he killed two of the enemy with his pistol and four with his *kukri*. At his investiture he wore the uniform depicted; note the regimental lanyard, shoulder titles, badges of rank and hat insignia, the 4th Indian Division's red eagle formation sign, and the ribbons of the Victoria Cross, Indian General Service Medal and the Africa Star.

H3: NCO, Central India Horse; Italy, winter 1944/45

This unit was the reconnaissance regiment of the 4th Indian Division, which saw hard fighting in appalling terrain and weather conditions in both winters of the Italian campaign. He is identified as an NCO by his weapon – a .45in Thompson 'machine carbine', in British parlance – rather

than by any visible badges of rank. He wears the regimental badge on his cold weather cap, a windproof smock over his battledress, and American M1944 'shoe-pac' winter overboots – a rare and coveted item.

I: THE FAR EAST, 1941–45

I1: Havildar, 5/14th Punjab Regiment; Malaya, 1941

This sergant of the 5th (Pathan) Bn, 14th Punjabis wears khaki drill uniform with the so-called 'Bombay bloomers' – shorts which could be unbuttoned and folded down to tuck into the hosetops as an anti-gas precaution. He has the 1937 pattern webbing equipment set with respirator and anti-gas cape, and is armed with the No.1 Rifle and bayonet. Insignia worn on tropical clothing were almost invariably attached only temporarily, with pins or hooks-and-eyes, so that they could easily be removed for the frequent laundering of clothing. Note his cloth shoulder titles, and the 'wheel of life' formation sign of the ill-fated 11th Indian Division. Some 50,000 Indian soldiers were captured by the Japanese in Malaya and Singapore.

I2: Rifleman, 1/7th Gurkha Rifles; Burma, 1942

Although the KD clothing proved impractical for jungle warfare, under the circumstances of the Japanese offensives in 1942 it was some time before it could be replaced (initially, with KD clothing re-dyed olive green). This soldier's fighting dress and equipment are typical of that date, though the slouch hat was specific to the Gurkha units; he wears no insignia, and is armed with the .303in Bren light machine gun, carried one per infantry section.

I3: Naik, 1/11th Sikh Regiment; Burma, 1944–45

From 1943 the KD clothing re-dyed 'jungle green' began to be progressively replaced among Indian and British troops alike by a purpose-made lightweight copy of the British battledress in olive green (a KD version was also made for service in e.g. the dryer regions of India, but was not worn in combat zones). This lightweight green BD was made in two materials: the blouse of an open-weave 'aertex', the trousers of a sturdier, closer-woven cotton drill. This junior NCO of the 11th Sikhs demonstrates the new uniform, complete with *pagri*; his 1939 pattern webbing 'battle order' incorporates special pouches for the magazines of his .45in Thompson. Note the golden arrow formation sign of the 7th Indian Division; insignia of all kinds were usually removed when in the front line.

J: THE FAR EAST, 1945–46

J1: Sapper, Queen Victoria's Own Sappers & Miners, 1945

This sapper also wears 1943 pattern Indian-made olive green battledress, and his headgear is the *doopta*. He has laid aside his webbing equipment and weapons while he searches for Japanese mines. Note the hand and dagger formation sign of the 19th Indian Division.

J2: Subedar, 1st Battalion, Indian Parachute Regiment, 1946

This short-lived organisation existed only between March 1945 and October 1946. This officer wears a uniform and insignia – based on the green battledress and the maroon Airborne Forces beret – which is identical in all but detail to that of his British counterpart. His cap badge and his Airborne Forces formation sign both have the legend 'INDIA' added; and he wears his parachute qualification

A sister of the Indian Military Nursing Service. Apart from the 'IMNS' slides on her shoulder straps her uniform is identical to that of British Army nurses in the QARANC. (IWM IND 3604)

wings on his right breast, rather than on the right upper sleeve in British style. Note his badges of rank; and the ribbons of the 1939–45 Star, Burma Star, India Service Medal 1939–45 and British War Medal 1939–45. His sidearm is a .38in Smith & Wesson revolver, holstered on a 1937 pattern webbing belt.

J3: Jemadar, 2/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles; Japan, 1946

This second lieutenant, a member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, wears Indian pattern battledress with a variety of insignia. Note the *pagri* on his hat, his red lanyard and '5RGR' shoulder titles – all regimental items. Note also his badges of rank, the Union flag sign of the 'Brindiv' (British/Indian Division), and the star patch worn by Indian troops of this formation. This veteran officer, decorated and commissioned for gallantry, displays the ribbons of the Military Medal, the Indian General Service Medals 1908 and 1936, the 1939–45 Star, the Burma Star, the India Service Medal 1939–45 and the British War Medal 1939–45.

INDEX

Figures in **bold** refer to illustrations

Allenby, General Sir Edmund (1861-1936) 7, 8, 12, 13
Anglo-Indian relations, Second World War 24-25
armoured fighting vehicles **22**, **23**, 43-44
artillery **G1**, **14**, **16**, 44-45, **45**, 54-55, 62
Assam Rifles 57-58
Auchinleck, Field Marshall Sir Claude 24
Auxiliary Force (India) 56-57

badges **58**, **61**
bands **47**, **52**
Bangalore torpedo, the 46
Bannu Brigade, the 20, 22
Bennett, Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvie David **17**, **54**, **60**
Bose, Subhas Chandra 24

Camel Corps **13**
camps, frontier 21-22
casualties 7, 8, 12, **12**, 21
cavalry **5**, 14, 32, 43-44
  standards **15**
  uniforms **C**, **D**, **F**, 60, 61-62
ceremonial units **F1**, 44, 61
Churchill, Winston (1874-1965) 24
civil unrest, tactics adopted 19
command structure 3-4, 13
covering troops 13
Curzon, Lord, Viceroy of India (1859-1925) 57

Dast, Subedar Mir, VC **3**
Desert Mounted Corps 5, 8, 12

Ekin, Second Lieutenant Roger **46**
engineers 46
equipment 5, 32, 52
establishment 3, 14, 25, 30

Farms Department, the 50
field army 13
Field Service Units 54
First World War 4, 9(table), 43, 44-45, 46, 46-47, 49
  East Africa 5
  Imperial Service Troops 54
  Indian Expeditionary Forces 4-5, 5, 5-6, 6(table)
  Megiddo, battle of, September 1918 7-9, 10(table), **11**(map), 12-13
  the Middle East **D**, **E**, 5-7, **9**, **12**, **13**, 60, 60-61
  mutinies 7
  the Western Front **B**, **C**, 4-5, **5**, **51**, **59**, 59-60
followers 53, **53**
Frontier Armoured Regiments 43
Frontier Column, the 19-22
Frontier Corps 57-58
Frontier Force **G3**, **5**, **20**, **48**, **59**, 62
frontier tribes, the 20

Gandhi, Mohandas (1869-1948) 24
Gurkha regiments **H2**, **I2**, **J2**, 31, 50, **51**, 62, 63

horses 32, 51-52
hunting 16

Imperial Service Troops 54
independence 30-31
India Command 24
Indian Army, 1947 31
Indian Army Ordnance Corps 52
Indian Civil Service, the 3
Indian Corps of Clerks 53
Indian Defence Force, the 56
Indian Long Range Squadron 43
Indian Mutiny, the, 1857-8 3, 4, 44, 49
Indian National Army 24, 26
Indian Signals Corps 52-53
Indian Territorial Force 18, 49
Indian Volunteer Force, the 56
Indianisation 17, 17-18, 46
Indonesia 30
infantry 14-15, 47-50, **49**
  colours **18**
internal security 13, 19, 24
Irrawaddy, river 26, **29**(map)

Jamrud Fort **21**
Japanese forces 23, 24, 26, 26-27, 28
Jinnah, Muhammed Ali (1876-1948) 25
Jodhpur Lancers **D2**, 9, 54, 55, 60
Judge, Lieutenant Karamjeet Singh, VC **27**

Khan, Khudadad, VC **B2**, 59
Khyber Rifles **54**, 57, **60**
Kitchener, Herbert, Viscount (1850-1916) 3, 4, 46

mechanisation **22**, 43
medical services **E1-2**, 51, **59**, 60, 61, **63**
Megiddo, battle of, September 1918 7-9, 10(table), **11**(map), 12-13
Meiktila, capture of, 1945 25-28, **28**, 30(table), **31**(map)
Military Police, Corps of 53
motivation 14
Muslims **7**, 25
Mysore Lancers **D1**, 9, 60

North-East Frontier 57-58
North-West Frontier, the 3, **16**, 19-22, 57, **60**

officers 3, 4, **7**, **8**, 14, 15-18, **17**, 19, 47, 54, 55
  Indian 17-18
Operation 'Capital' 25-26, 28
Operation 'Extended Capital' 26, 28
Ordnance Department 52
organisation
  cavalry 32, 43
  Frontier Corps 57
  higher 3-4
  infantry 47

Pakistan 31, 55
paratroops **J2**, 50, 63
Partition 30-31, 55, 58
pioneers **E3**, **6**, 46-47, 61
piquets 20-21, 22
polo 16
post-war duties 30
Princes, Armies of the 53-55

ranks 4(table)
recruits and recruiting 13-14, 18-19, 32, 49
reforms 3-4, 4(table), 13, 24
regimental titles 15

Sappers and Miners, Corps of **J3**, 45-46, 63
Sea Wolves the, (film) 57
Second World War 13, 18, 23-25, **24**, 25(table), **26**, 43-44, 45, 49, **61**, **62**
  Auxiliary Force (India) 57
  capture of Meiktila 25-28, **28**, **29**(map), 30(table), **31**(map)
  the Far East **I**, **J**, **56**, 62
  Field Service Units 55
  the Middle East **H**, **55**, 62-63
Skinner's Horse **22**, **23**
Slim, General William (1891-1970) 23, 26, 28
Smyth, Lieutenant 'Jackie' **B1**, 59
snipers, frontier 22
South-East Asia Command (SEAC) 23-24
South Waziristan Scouts 22, 57
Staff Corps 3
supporting services 50-53

tanks **28**, **44**
Thapa, Subedar Lalbahadur, VC **H2**, 62
Third Afghan War, 1919 57
transport 48, 50, 52
Turkish forces 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 12-13

uniforms 59
  First World War **B**, **C**, **D**, **E**, **59**, 59-61
  full dress **A**, **3**, **46**, **54**, 59
  inter-war years **F**, **G**, 61-62
  Second World War **H**, **I**, **J**, **26**, **62**, 62-63

Victoria Cross, the 7, 25

Wavell, General Sir Archibald (1883-1950) 23, 24
weapons 32, 48, 49
Wilcox Committee, the 30, 44, 50, 55
Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) 53

COMPANION SERIES FROM OSPREY

MEN-AT-ARMS
An unrivalled source of information on the organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's fighting men, past and present. The series covers hundreds of subjects spanning 5,000 years of history. Each 48-page book includes concise texts packed with specific information, some 40 photos, maps and diagrams, and eight colour plates of uniformed figures.

WARRIOR
Definitive analysis of the appearance, weapons, equipment, tactics, character and conditions of service of the individual fighting man throughout history. Each 64-page book includes full-colour uniform studies in close detail, and sectional artwork of the soldier's equipment.

ORDER OF BATTLE
The most detailed information ever published on the units which fought history's great battles. Each 96-page book contains comprehensive organisation diagrams supported by ultra-detailed colour maps. Each title also includes a large fold-out base map.

CAMPAIGN
Concise, authoritative accounts of history's decisive military encounters. Each 96-page book contains over 90 illustrations including maps, orders of battle, colour plates, and three-dimensional battle maps.

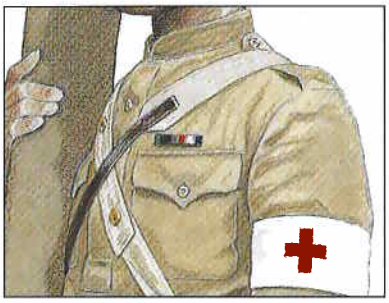
NEW VANGUARD
Comprehensive histories of the design, development and operational use of the world's armoured vehicles and artillery. Each 48-page book contains eight pages of full-colour artwork including a detailed cutaway.

AIRCRAFT OF THE ACES
Focuses exclusively on the elite pilots of major air campaigns, and includes unique interviews with surviving aces sourced specifically for each volume. Each 96-page volume contains up to 40 specially commissioned artworks, unit listings, new scale plans and the best archival photography available.

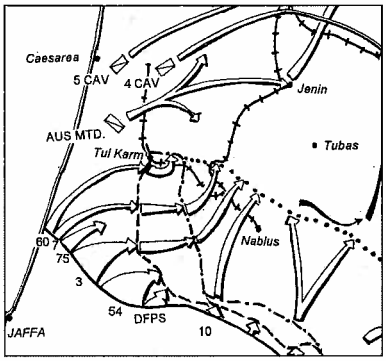
COMBAT AIRCRAFT
Technical information from the world's leading aviation writers on the century's most significant military aircraft. Each 96-page volume contains up to 40 specially commissioned artworks, unit listings, new scale plans and the best archival photography available.

The history of military forces, artefacts, personalities and techniques of warfare.

Full colour artwork



Unrivalled detail



Diagrams

Photographs

The Indian Army 1914–1947

At the height of its strength and confidence the army of British India was a unique organisation, whose officers and other ranks – all volunteers – were bound together by extraordinary ésprit de corps. Already the largest volunteer army in the world in 1914, by 1918 it had quadrupled in strength to nearly 600,000 men. Indian divisions served with distinction on the Western Front and, particularly, in the Middle East. After interwar campaigns on the North-West Frontier, in the Second World War Indian divisions made a major contribution to the British effort in North Africa, Italy and Burma. With independence and partition the old army was divided between the new states of India and Pakistan, retaining its discipline and professional pride in the most difficult circumstances.

OSPREY PUBLISHING

www.ospreypublishing.com

ISBN 1-84176-196-6